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The Hilltop 10-15-2004

Hilltop Staff

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WEATHER
Today: Showers
High 64, Low 48
Saturday: Partly Cloudy
High 62, Low 42
Sunday: Sunny
High 63, Low 47

The Hilltop



#1 The Princeton Review
COLLEGE
NEWSPAPER

The Student Voice of Howard University Since 1924

VOLUME 88, NO. 16

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2004

www.thehilltoponline.com



Some students feel that the cost for on-campus housing is too high to have less than perfect living conditions.

Alveto Alexander, Staff Photographer

New Dorm Development Plans

BY TAHMAN BRADLEY
Contributing Writer

In response to 99 percent dorm occupancy and sustained rising demand for on-campus housing, university officials have announced major renovation and construction projects, including the development of a new state of the art male dormitory, set to open before 2007.

"The university is in a state of making continuous changes," said Aaro Jean Bell Reid, assistant vice president for financial management. "We have evaluated our student housing supply to see if it is sufficient and at this time we understand it is not."

This past summer, \$3.5 million was

used by Physical Facilities Management to improve Howard facilities during what the university calls "summer readiness." The bulk of the funds were allocated to improving infrastructure within the dorms, replacing old furniture and implementing and replacing the roof on the Undergraduate Library. One hundred forty new sets of bedroom furniture were purchased this summer for Meridian, Drew, Slowe and the Quad, new carpeting has been placed in the Howard Plaza Towers and unit cabinets have been replaced on the top three of the floors of the West Towers.

Students, like Maureen Taylor, a junior broadcast journalism major and resident on one of the floors where

the improvements were made, wonder why they have not noticed even more improvements given the amount of money spent.

"I don't think after the changes, the West Towers is any better," Taylor said. "It does not look like they did anything with the money."

David Edge, director of architectural and engineering services, said students may not notice significant changes to their dorm rooms, but they should see that the quality of residence halls has increased tremendously.

"We have to stay focused on the mechanical systems because the infrastructure in the dorms is old," Edge

See DORM, News A3

The Third & Final Presidential Debate: Wednesday, October 13

BY KEVIN HARRIS
Nation & World Editor

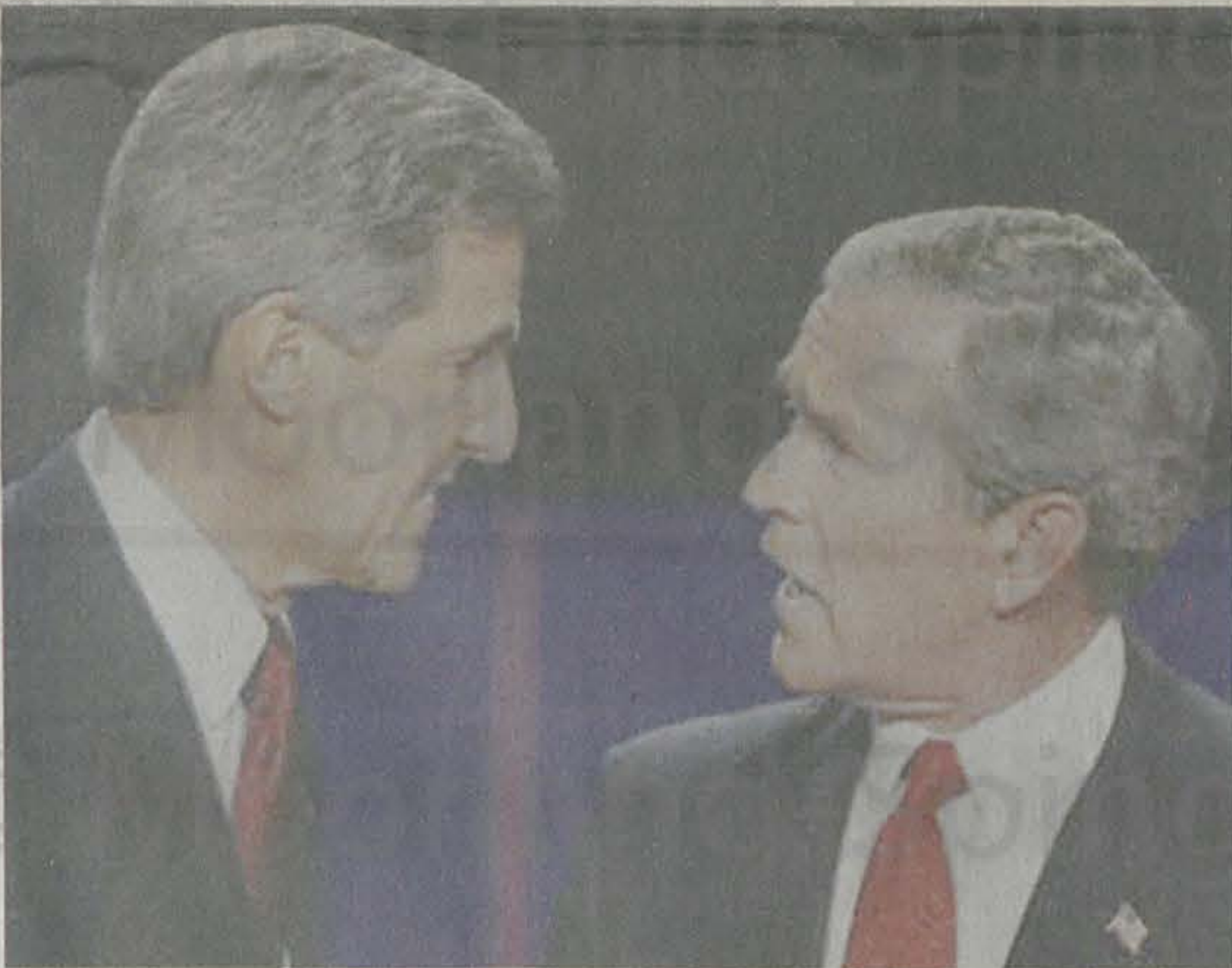
President Bush and Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass) held their third and final debate of the election year Wednesday night at Arizona State University in Tempe, Ariz. The two men battled over domestic and social issues like jobs, health care, gay marriage and abortion. Kerry accused Bush of "turning his back on the wellness of America," because five million Americans have lost their healthcare since Bush took office. The senator went on to say, "I have a plan to cover all Americans." Bush dismissed

Kerry's plan and said the senator has no way to pay for his healthcare proposal. "It's an empty promise," Bush said. "It's called bait-and-switch." The candidates also differed strongly on the issue of how to fix the Social Security System, which is running out of money. Bush acknowledged the problems with the program and said if re-elected it would be a "vital issue in my second administration." Bush said he would work in a bi-partisan manner to address social security reform and assured seniors that they would continue to benefit from the program. "You're going to get your checks," Bush said. Kerry called Bush's proposals

to fix social security "a disaster" and said he would not seek to privatize the program or cut its benefits if he is elected.

Bush and Kerry continued to be in disagreement when the debate shifted to social issues of the day. On abortion, Kerry said, "I believe the decision is a choice between the woman, her doctor, and God." The senator, who is catholic, defended women's right to choose rather-or-not to abort a child despite the fact his political stance conflicts with the teachings of his religion. Kerry said that while he personally opposes abortion, he could not use legislation to

See DEBATE, Campus A7



Reuters

Three debates ranging from such issues as the War on Terrorism, War in Iraq, homeland security, same-sex marriages and health care left the candidates in a heated battle of words.



Mark King, Staff Photographer

Students must walk, wait for the shuttle bus or catch a ride with the Campus Police in order to safely travel at night since the escort van has been returned.

Campus Escort Van, No More

BY AYESHA RASCOE
Hilltop Staff Writer

Currently, Howard students do not have to commit a crime to catch a ride in a Campus Police cruiser. They need only to utilize the University's Campus Escort Service. The Campus Escort Service is a program run by the Campus Police Department that allows students and faculty to safely travel around campus after the shuttle service ends. The white van that previously transported people around campus is no longer in service, so the department has been forced to use police cars, as well as borrow vehicles from other departments.

Interim Campus Police Chief Lawrence Thomas explained that the white van was leased and when the lease was up a few weeks ago, the van was returned.

He stressed, however, that the Campus Escort Service is still fully operational.

"We don't have the van," Thomas said. "We still have the service. The fact is that the student escort service is in place and will continue to be in place."

Though Thomas recognized that students might not want to be seen in a marked car, he said that to his knowledge, the use of squad cars has not stopped students from being transported to their destination. He also said the department is currently working to secure another van, so that officers will be able to use all of their time in the police car to patrol the campus, instead of hauling students around. In the meantime, the department plans to borrow a van from another department in the service center.

Despite Thomas' assurance,

es, some students were very concerned about the van no longer being in service, and also the manner in which it was lost.

"I feel as though they should buy their own transportation," said Jamaal Haffner, a freshman human, health and leisure studies major. "I figure that would make more sense, so they would not run into these problems."

Regilyn Pratt, a senior international business marketing major, was worried about the lack of space that a patrol car provides.

"I feel as if that is not adequate," Pratt said. "It's not adequate space for the amount of people who usually call, so they have to go back and forth instead of making one trip."

Jordan Cuby, a psychology major, questioned the admin-

See ESCORT, News A3

College of Arts & Sciences Begins its Annual Parent's Weekend

BY JABARI SMITH
Contributing Writer

The College of Arts & Sciences will be hosting its annual Parent's Weekend this weekend, an event that will welcome hundreds of parents to the Howard University campus.

The College of Arts & Sciences Parent's Weekend is an event that is a collaborative effort between the college and the student council.

"The council's primary role for the weekend is to ensure that the parents

are informed about the college and what it is that the student council does," said the College of Arts & Sciences Student Council president Faith Walls.

Many members of the student council were very expressive about why they feel an event such as Parent's Weekend is important.

"Parents play an important role in our educational careers and should be honored for their continued support to the students and the University," said Myla Jones, the student council executive treasurer.

Throughout the years, the mission of Parent's Weekend has been to provide an opportunity for the parents of Arts & Sciences students to share the Howard experience with their kids.

"It's a big step for parents to allow their kids to leave home and go to school in an unfamiliar environment," said Odiri Dafe, the Student Council Community Outreach director. "Parent's Weekend allows parents to see what buildings their kids are going to class in, the yard that they walk across daily, and the overall atmosphere in which

they are living."

Although, participation in the weekend is not limited to freshmen students and their parents, it is somewhat geared to students and parents who are still transitioning into life at Howard.

Freshman biology major Stacy Williams agrees that Parent's Weekend is important for freshmen and their parents.

"I love that the College of Arts & Sciences is hosting a Parent's Weekend," Williams said. "Parents love to feel appreciated and having an entire

weekend dedicated to them is one way to make them feel special. My parents are very excited about this weekend's events."

Freshman political science major Will Roberts expressed similar sentiments.

"For students who have never been away from home, it's comforting to have your parents around and events such as Parent's Weekend provide an outlet for that."

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clean...

Campus...A2



Read the exclusive
interview
soccer star
Freddy Adu gave
The Hilltop...

Sports...B1



Find out why
child obesity
is no laughing
matter...

Nation & World...B6

VOICES & VIEWS

How do you feel about Homecoming being held so late this year?



Ashley Smith
Sophomore
Psychology

"I feel that by homecoming being so late it is unfair to the students. This year I have midterms after Homecoming which is going to keep me from truly enjoying homecoming."



Kofi Owusu
Senior
Acting/Radio
Production

"It gives the homecoming committee as well as the Greek life time to straighten things up for the week. We all know Murphy's law and extra time has helped a lot."



Vage Beasley
Junior
Sports Pedagogy

"I think homecoming being this late is great because its after midterms and we can fully focus on homecoming without worries of hard studying."

Howard Thespians Bring Popular Classic to Life

BY KONAHE JERNIGAN
Hilltop Staff Writer

Howard students learned about life and exploded with laughter while viewing the Theatre Arts department's musical performance of "The Fantasticks" in Environmental Theatre Space.

Performed over 11,000 times in the U.S. from 1960-2002, "The Fantasticks" is the world's longest running musical and longest running show in the history of the American Theatre.

"The Fantasticks" is a timeless story of love based on the novel and lyrics by Tom Jones. The plot entails a bright-eyed boy and the naïve girl next door who fall in love. The two then fall out of love because the world's unknown beckons them. After life's turbulent realities have their way with the two, they find solace in each other's arms and the familiarity of home.

"I chose to perform in this production because it talked about life," said senior musical theatre major Isaiah Johnson. "Its loose comedy brings up some serious cross gender issues and examines the maturation process."

Traditionally, the play would not include an all African-American cast, but students say Howard players did a wonderful job breaking the tradition.

"I thought the performance was



Aghogho Socoto

A comedic play with a serious message, Howard students in the Theatre Arts Department have been putting on "The Fantasticks," the nation's longest running musical, over the last two weeks.

going to be boring and generic, but it was actually funny and good," said freshman engineering major Jason Pyke.

With a small audience of about 30 people, their appreciation for the musical was abundant.

"I liked the performance," said chemistry major Lianna Samuel. "It was a clas-

sic portrayal of good conquering evil, but it was extremely funny, interesting and well done."

Every year, the Theatre Arts department puts on musicals and full-fledged plays, but what many students may not know is that the participants do not have to be theatre or acting majors. People

of all majors are encouraged to audition, but the competition is fierce and the involvement is intense.

"Students who do not major in fine arts may not understand the commitment they are getting into, and some may even take it for granted," said senior musical theatre major Marinda Anderson. "Theatre is a wonderful thing. It is an opportunity to entertain people on an intimate level. The special connection between the audience and the performer makes it more of a challenge."

This year, the department will run six productions that include "The Fantasticks," "African Company Presents: Richard III," "No Exit," "Rasta/ Reggae Play Reading Series," "Into the Woods" and the "Howard University Dance Program."

"I want to see more students at our performances," said junior musical theatre major William Bryant Miles. "We are becoming a processed culture. Theatre is cultural enrichment; it is an art form that is honest and personal while being entertaining at the same time."

The final performance for "The Fantasticks" is tomorrow night at 7:30 p.m. in the Ira Aldridge Theater. Student tickets are \$7.50.

Sports Medicine a New Major for Undergrads

BY TOYNETT N. HALL
Contributing Writer

Howard University is now the second historically Black university to offer sports medicine as an undergraduate major. The Department of Health, Human Performance and Leisure Studies has recently added the sports medicine/ pre-med concentration to its curriculum. The program was designed to expose students to an academic program that would gain admission into medical school.

According to Michael Caprarola, coordinator of the sports medicine/ pre-med concentration, the program was developed by himself, Department Chair Gwendolyn Davis, Vernon Bond, Marjorie

Leppo and Clarence Stewart.

"Students have always asked about a sports medicine program, so we decided to put it together," said Caprarola, who has been at Howard for 23 years. "We worked on it the past academic school year and it was completed by last summer."

According to the Department of Health, Human Performance and Leisure Studies, the program provides an academic foundation for medical school course work through exposure to specific subjects such as anatomy, physiology, exercise physiology, kinesiology, biology, biochemistry, chemistry, physics, pre-calculus/calculus, organic chemistry and the sports medicine practicum.

The sports medicine pro-

gram has a minor in chemistry with a total of 128 credit hours. There are approximately 20 students enrolled in the program. Howard students embrace the new program and see it as a great opportunity for students.

"I think it is a good idea because sports play a very large role in the culture of American society," said Ivan Thomas, a senior broadcast journalism major. "And for Howard, I think it's beneficial for students to have a wider range of choices as it pertains to the medical field. It is good because many people who do have an interest in medicine and sports now have an opportunity to intertwine them both."

Junior broadcast journalism major Marquase Lovings

also feels the major is a good idea for students interested in sports and the medical field. "It opens up windows and doors of opportunity," Lovings said. "I also think it is great for athletes who want to take a step further to achieving success."

Sophomore management major and track athlete, Tuokpe Ogharaerumi, agrees. "I think it is a really good program because you can branch out into other forms of medicine," Ogharaerumi said. "I see a lot of good things coming out of this."

However, because the sports medicine/ pre-med concentration program is just beginning, some students are skeptical about it but feel it's worth offering. Sophomore physical therapy major Jeffery Stone said, "I think

it's an interesting major to have but it might not be as developed because it is in its first year."

According to the University, the program "propels the Department of Health, Human Performance and Leisure Studies into a lead role among historically Black colleges and universities to establish a sports medicine/ pre-med program focused on health concerns unique to minority populations."

The only historically Black college that offers a sports medicine/ pre-med program besides Howard University is Xavier University in Louisiana.

Students Claim Sickness Over Dirty Air Filters

BY RACHEL WADE
Contributing Writer

Sneezing, runny noses and shortness of breath are not only sparked by the change of seasons. For some Meridian Hill Hall residents, turning on the air conditioning has caused students to experience these typical cold symptoms as a result of dust build-up in the vents.

While University officials say the vents are properly maintained, outside workers tell a different story.

"The filters in the vents are changed once a year," said Charles Overhaul, the assistant director for maintenance under Residence Life.

However, air quality professionals such as Ken Rollins of Empire Air Duct and Dryer Cleaning Services say the University does not change the filters as frequently as they should.

"The filters should be changed every 30 days in order to maintain a healthy clean air environment," Rollins said.

According to the EPA, indoor air in homes and buildings can be more seriously polluted than air in outdoor areas in cities. Central heating and cooling systems can be the cause of this problem. Pollen, bacteria, dust mites and mold settle into the vents, and when air passes through, pollution is blown into the air and recirculates.

"The vents look dirty and old," said Desmonae Perry, a sophomore finance major.

"As of today we have recieved no complaints from students becoming ill due to the air quality," said Charles Gibbs, Dean of Residence Life. "Our number one priority is to provide a safe and healthy environment." If students have questions or concerns they should fill out a maintenance requests and they will receive a response in 48 hours."

While Overhaul suggests that stu-

dents must submit a request form to their residence hall maintenance staff in order to get the filters changed, some students say they have no faith that their problem will be fixed.

"When I turned on my a/c in the beginning of the year, I had a cold for about a week," said sophomore history major Lily Doxy. "I've kept it off since then. However, I didn't report the problem to the maintenance staff because I didn't feel that they would correct the problem."

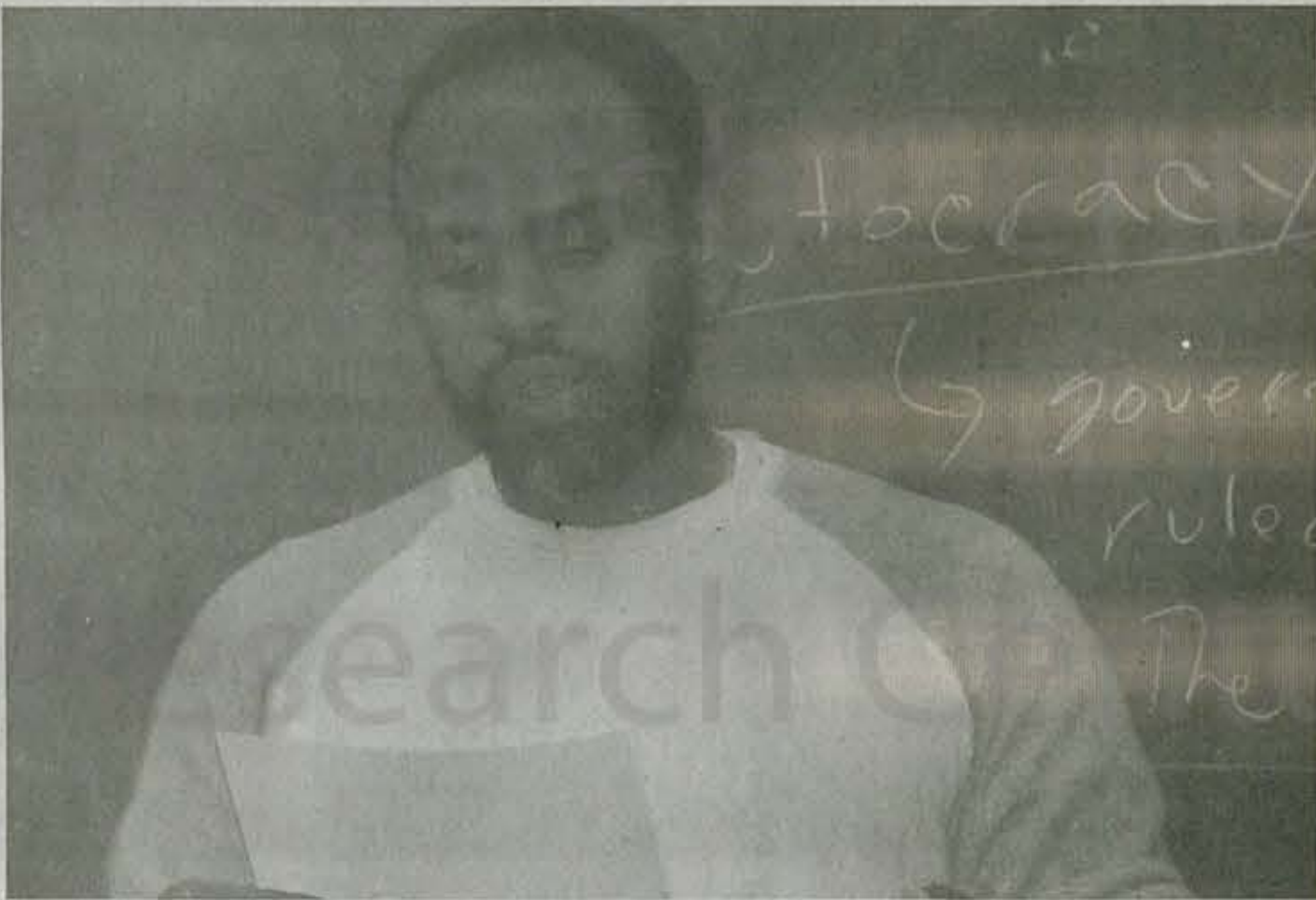
Overhaul suggests that a "hiring freeze" may be the cause of slow maintenance service in the dorms.

"There are only eight maintenance guys assigned to 11 buildings," he said. "They handle about 300 work orders a month. Every student won't get helped right away. It could be as early as two weeks or as late as two months."

Facts provided by Fresh Air Duct Cleaning Inc. state that 30 percent of the world's modern buildings are plagued with poor indoor air quality. Improperly cleaned ventilation systems cause and worsen medical conditions like asthma, fatigue, skin rash and tuberculosis.

"I remember turning on the a/c one night and waking up early the next morning feeling terrible," said Ihuoma Ukoh, a sophomore political science major. "To avoid being under the weather, I keep my a/c off. At times it becomes really hot in my room so this is a problem for me."

Besides the lack of workers, another problem that contributes to the current state of the indoor air quality in Meridian is the lack of money available to Residence Life. "Residence Life has received a three percent budget cut for the last two years," Overhaul said. "So the problems students are having won't be solved as quickly as students might expect. We are trying to serve students the best way we can with the manpower that we have."



Mark King-Staff Photographer

Students learn about African American history through the weekly Wednesday teachings of Yhwh Elhillali.

Students Discuss Black Issues in Weekly Series

BY JANA HOMES
Hilltop Staff Writer

As a part of a weekly series, D.C. native and Norfolk State University graduate Yhwh Elhillali held an open discussion and lecture on "The Misguided Warrior: The State of the Blackman in America" and other topics in Frederick Douglass Memorial Hall Wednesday night.

Elhillali has been holding the series at Howard for the past few years, and spoke this week about the condition of African-American males.

He compared an architectural structure to the Black community with the Black man as the cornerstone. He stated that in an effort to destroy the building, people targeted this point of structural integrity and thus collapsed the foundation.

"Love is that bond that comes with understanding and that's why we need it

for the revolution because we have to have tolerance and put our petty differences aside," Elhillali said.

Even though only seven students attended, they were enthusiastic about the message that was being promoted and say they learn about themselves from Elhillali.

"I am drawn to this event every Wednesday because this is the only place on Howard's campus where I am learning about my people and my history," said freshman Alanna Casselle, whose major is undecided. "This class has taught me how to love myself as a Black woman and to love my people."

As stated on the flyer, the discussions are meant to "raise the level of consciousness in the Black community" by encouraging blacks "to mobilize so we can deal with the issues in our communities and

Students Want Top Shape Dorms

DORM, from Campus A1

said, "A student may walk into a building and not realize the changes, but will realize their buildings will be more comfortable because of infrastructure repair."

To address housing shortages, Howard officials are planning to rebuild the recently purchased Howard Manor and Effingham Apartments on Georgia Avenue. Also, the Office of the Treasurer is coordinating the process for selecting a developer for a new male dormitory. According to Reid, the university is close to reaching a deal with a developer and she expects the dorms will

be open no later than 2007. The University is not releasing the overall cost of the male dorm project because they are still reviewing proposals from developers. Officials have emphasized that the project should not immediately affect tuition because the projects will be funded through a tax-exempt revenue bond for which the university will not be the issuer.

The University may use the new housing to accommodate graduate students and are looking for affordable housing options in the area for grad students. Howard students like the idea of new dormitories but are suspicious about

the work taking place in their dorms.

"The new dorms are a step in the right direction, but I've seen no change in the existing dorms whatsoever," said Gordon McDowell, a junior information systems major and resident of Carver Hall. "I do not think the \$3.5 million went into the dorms. They need to fix the air conditioning units in the dorms, improve the aesthetic beauty of the rooms and repair the chairs in the lounges."

Projects for next year's summer readiness have not yet been determined.

Cop Cars Replace Escort Van

ESCORT, from Campus A1

istration's motives for leasing a van for the Campus Escort Service.

"First of all, I feel it is tacky to borrow someone else's car to transport students," Cuby said. "Second of all, the University should ensure that students can be transported safely after visitation hours. Apparently that's not a priority because the van lease was not renewed."

Cuby also stated that the administration knew when the lease would run out, so they should have been prepared.

This current dilemma is not the first time that students have voiced complaints about the Campus Escort Service. The Hilltop reported in 2002 that students felt the program was inefficient. Squad cars were being used at that time also, and students complained about waiting two hours for a ride, and sometimes not getting a ride at all.

James Dowdy, a campus police sergeant, explained to



Mark King- Staff Photographer

Some students are uncomfortable riding in a squad car and prefer the escort van to take them from one location to another at night.

The Hilltop the reasons for the delays.

"The escort system is a courtesy," Dowdy said. "If there is a felony occurring or a fight, the police's first priority is that." According to Thomas, this conflict of priorities is the main reason that the department began

employing the van.

Regardless of how students may feel about the loss of the van by the Campus Escort Service, Thomas still urges students to use the program for their own safety.

Moss Talks Openly About Draft

BY CHRIS WALL
Copy Editor

While promoting his book in Blackburn, Donald C. Moss, a former football player at the University of Southern California, discussed the importance of students completing their college education before playing professional sports Thursday afternoon.

Entitled "Going Pro: Scholarships, Student Athletes and the Money," Moss noted that the odds of student athletes making it to the professional sports arena are not favorable.

"Everyone does not make it to the professional league and a solid education is good to fall back on," said Moss, who majored in aerospace engineering and worked briefly as a research engineer. "Growing up, an education was paramount in my family. The focus nowadays is placed on money."

Current statistics state that one in every 17 high school football players will go on to play in college. Of those fortunate enough to make it through the collegiate playing field, only one in 76 football players will move on to the National Football League. Additionally, one in every 500,000 basketball play-



Marlene Hawthorne- Staff Photographer

Donald Moss encourages student athletes to graduate rather than joining professional sports in his book "Going Pro: Scholarships, Student Athletes and the Money."

ers will go from college to pro.

Moss stressed how invaluable an education is to athletes today and feels that his book is important to the African-American community because Black Americans are constantly associated with sports.

"African-Americans play a huge role when it comes to athletics because there is so much emphasis put on us in regards to sports," Moss said. "In actuality, no one can measure how great of an impact the media has on influencing our society. Just look at college football and

how it's on three to four nights a week. If that is all young kids are seeing then it will be all they grow up knowing."

He also stated that the biggest difference between athletes of the past and present, such as Muhammad Ali and Kobe Bryant, is self-absorption.

"Older athletes cared about the Black race and what was good for the people," he said. "Today it's all about 'what's in it for me'."

Junior physical education

See AUTHOR, News A7

Parent Weekend Draws Excitement

PARENTS, from Campus A1

However, while many students are excited about Parent's Weekend, several are left wondering when they were going to be notified about the event. Although, information about the Weekend was given to the parents of Arts & Sciences students during orientation week, many students feel that more steps could have been taken to make them aware of the event.

"As the biggest school on

Howard's campus, I would expect more from the College of Arts & Sciences," said sophomore psychology major LaToya Prevost. "How do they expect us to be active in campus life if we aren't informed about such events as Parent's Weekend?"

Prevost suggests that the College of Arts & Sciences utilize The Hilltop, the Howard University website and handing out flyers to inform students about their activities. Parent's Weekend will commence this

afternoon with the Dean's Honors Convocation. On Saturday, there are several events planned such as a brunch sponsored by the student council.

Following the brunch, parents will have the opportunity to attend the Howard vs. Morgan State football game in Greene Stadium, and then be treated to a barbeque. The weekend will end with a call to Chapel on Sunday by the College of Arts & Sciences.

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Student Profile: The Basement

BY JENEA ROBINSON
Contributing Writer

Three vocalists, one drummer, a key-boardist, trombonist, a bass and tenor sax player make up the energetic eight-member band called The Basement. The three vocalists are Nicholas Gant, Muhsinah Abdul-Karim and Kevin Owens.

All music majors, Kevin Owens, Jason Holt, Taylor Pace, Brandon Lewis, Cory Gault, Todd Gault, Nicholas Gant and Muhsinah Abdul-Karim formed their group in January 2004.

"We had to get Nick in the group because we knew he had skills," Pace said of the group's lead singer.

After the group was complete, Lewis suggested that the band enter a competition and have been performing together ever since.

The Basement has performed sets at several clubs in the District, some of which include Kili's Café and The Aqua Club. Recently, The Basement held a dynamic show at The Punch Out.

Describing themselves as eclectic, they have performed songs by Musiq, Brandy and OutKast as well as gospel,

soul and rock music. In addition to performing creative arrangements of popular songs, the group collectively writes original music.

"It's like magic," said junior music major Brandie Waller, who has seen The Basement perform at The Punch Out. "They're exceptionally good."

As a whole, the group said they are inspired by R&B band Mint Condition.

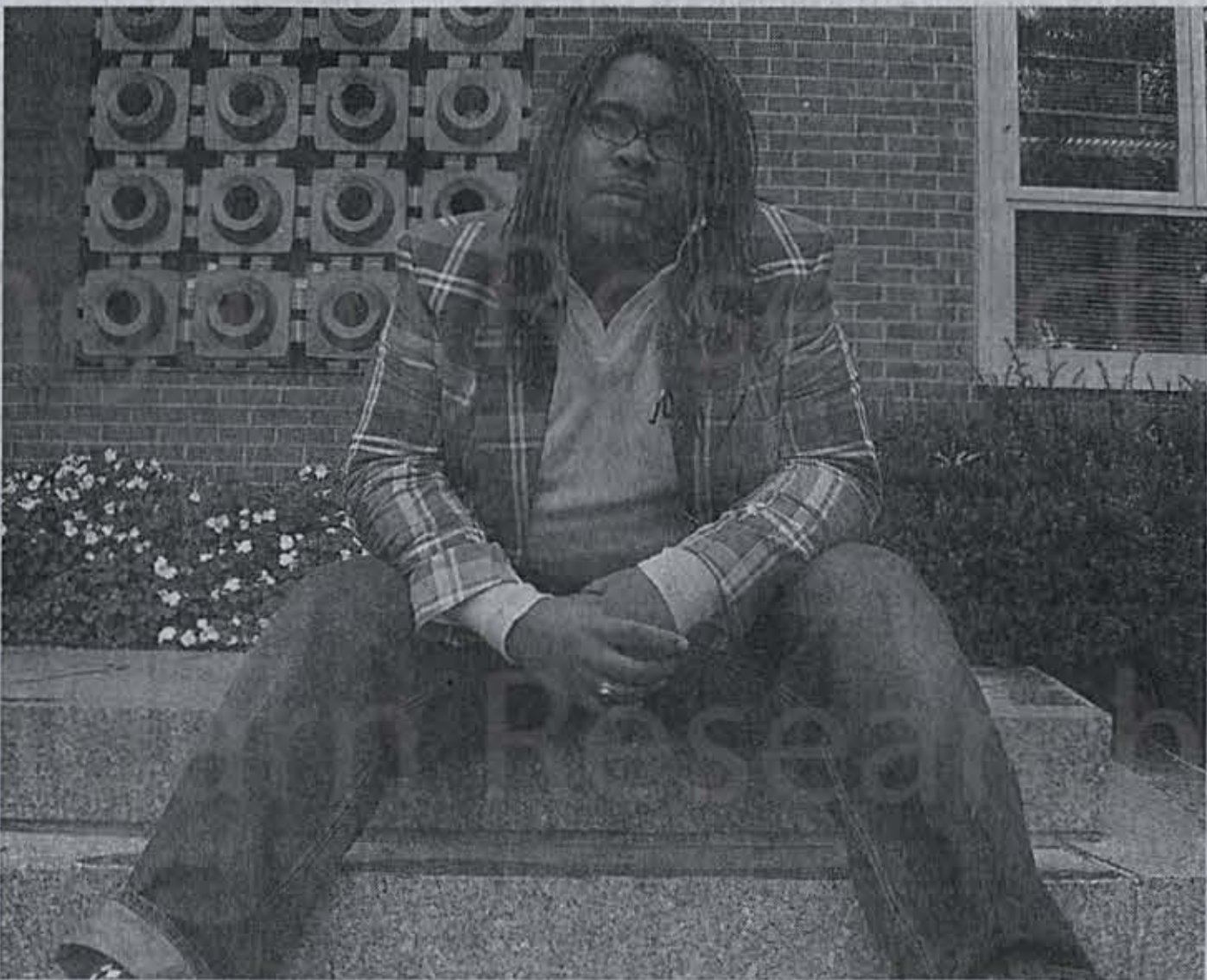
"Mint Condition is an actual band with real instruments and that is a rarity in music today," Gant said.

Involved with music since childhood, in the near future, The Basement wants to tour the world and just simply have everyone feel their music.

"Being music majors, sometimes we get caught up in the technical aspect of music," said Pace, who plays the keyboard.

Gant quickly added, "But we can't forget about the technical stuff because that's what makes us musicians."

The Basement will be performing at the Burning Hot on the Hilltop talent showcase, sponsored by Endustry Power Players, on Oct. 22 in Cramton Auditorium.



Senior music major Nick Gant is the lead singer of The Basement, an eight-member band comprised of Howard University students.

EMPLOYEE of the WEEK



Wilson Bland
BY NICOLE M. MELTON
Contributing Writer

Wilson Bland considers Howard more than just a place of employment. Serving as the business manager for the Howard Plaza Towers, he considers the University to be a second home.

"At Howard, I have interacted with people [from] all over the world, which has given me the desire to grow intellectually," Bland said. "The people that I've met and the people that have helped me have really had an impact on me. I feel like they're my second family."

Bland began his career at Howard when he was a student studying music and business. As an undergrad, he worked in the Towers, where he served as a desk receptionist and an office assistant. He went on to earn an MBA from Southeastern University in management and computer information systems.

He returned to serve as a building manager and the human resources director of the Towers. Now as the business manager, Bland oversees the mailroom staff, the front desk staff, student assistants and the business office.

Bland is also in charge of housing payments and deals with students who are having problems with their housing units.

"I really enjoy interacting with students," he said. "I try to give them guidance on how to deal with certain situations. I help students understand that getting upset because things are not going your way is not the best solution. I always advise them to kill people with kindness."

Serving as a counselor for students is something that Bland considers his way of giving back. He recalls administrators who went out of their way to help him when he was a student, and tries to be that person for other students.

"Connecting with the different administrators when I was a student really helped me," Bland said. "If I ever needed something, I knew where to go. You never know how establishing a relationship with students can change their lives."

Interacting with students is the best part of Bland's job. His willingness to listen makes it easy for him to talk openly with students; an attribute he says has improved his relationship with them.

"I really take the time to sit and talk with people," Bland said. "I focus on my listening skills and allow students to vent before I give suggestions as to what can be done. I'm not so quick to say 'No' to students. I give them a chance first."

In addition to being open with students, Bland's outgoing nature motivates him while working. He can sometimes be seen talking with students outside the Towers during his lunch break, or going to visit other administrators in Residence Life.

"I truly believe that communication and a posi-

See BLAND, News A7

FRESHMEN SPEAK:

What are some of the downsides to being a freshman and how do you deal with them?

"One of the downsides is that some people think that you are beneath them. They say, 'Oh, you're young' and I'll just say, 'Yeah, I'm a little sheltered and inexperienced.' But I just deal with it and now I don't tell people that I am a freshman."

-Jessica Smith, undecided

"You can't take the classes that you want to take and you have to learn how to take care of your own business. But you've just got to wait to take the classes you want to take and try to be more responsible and organize your time."

-Dasha Halkin, undecided

"One of the things I don't like is that some of the upperclassmen act like they were never once a freshman and act like they are too good to talk to us. They should be understanding, instead of acting too good. I deal with it by not dealing with the ones who think that they are too good to talk to freshmen."

-Aquila Jones, Biology

"One of the downsides is that you go from being at the top back down to the bottom and you don't really feel as connected to anyone. But I just kind of accept it and suck it up; I know that I'll be back up top again. I also try to interact with upperclassmen, too."

-Jessica Sturgis, Radio Television & Film

"Not really knowing the city and having to meet new people and make friends are some of the downsides. I just do my best to get out in the city and get off campus and I try to get involved with organizations to meet new people."

-Monica Harris, Journalism

"Some upperclassmen have this 'better than thou' perspective. But I just treat them like the ignorant people they are."

-Ashley Southall, Journalism

"All upperclassmen girls look down upon you. The sophomore girls are mean. I don't deal with it. I move on and walk away."

-Michael Coyle, Architecture

"The quality of the freshman male dorms is one of the downsides. But I just chill, hang out and make friends. After you make friends it doesn't really become an issue anymore."

-Christopher Lewis, International Business

"Having to start from the bottom, politically, on campus and having to earn your respect from the upperclassmen are two downsides of being a freshman. But you just take your place in the cycle and know that you'll be on top soon. Also, just be yourself and try to get your name around campus."

-Calvin Hadley, Political Science

"We don't have a lot of say on campus because we don't know too much about Howard. You deal with it by making yourself known on campus."

-Abby George, Psychology

"You feel out of the loop with activities and things going on around or outside the campus. Transportation is an issue too. But just get to know upperclassmen and learn how to use the metro and walk."

-Josh Thomas, Print Journalism

A Moment in Howard's History:
Females Say Good Black Men Really Do Exist

BY SHAENA HENRY
Contributing Writer

Where are all the good black men? This appears to be the most inconclusive question among females in the black community. However, this inquiry is far from recent. On October 29, 1985, the Howard University Student Association held a forum entitled "Black Men: Where Have All the Good Ones Gone?" Some of the issues discussed were the effects of unemployment, education and how Black women can support Black men.

This is a concern that still persists almost two decades later. Discouraging demographics such as the imprisonment of black men contribute to this ongoing subject. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the incarceration rate for African-American males rose almost 40 percent between 1980 and 1985. As a result, unemployment rates drastically increased among Black men.

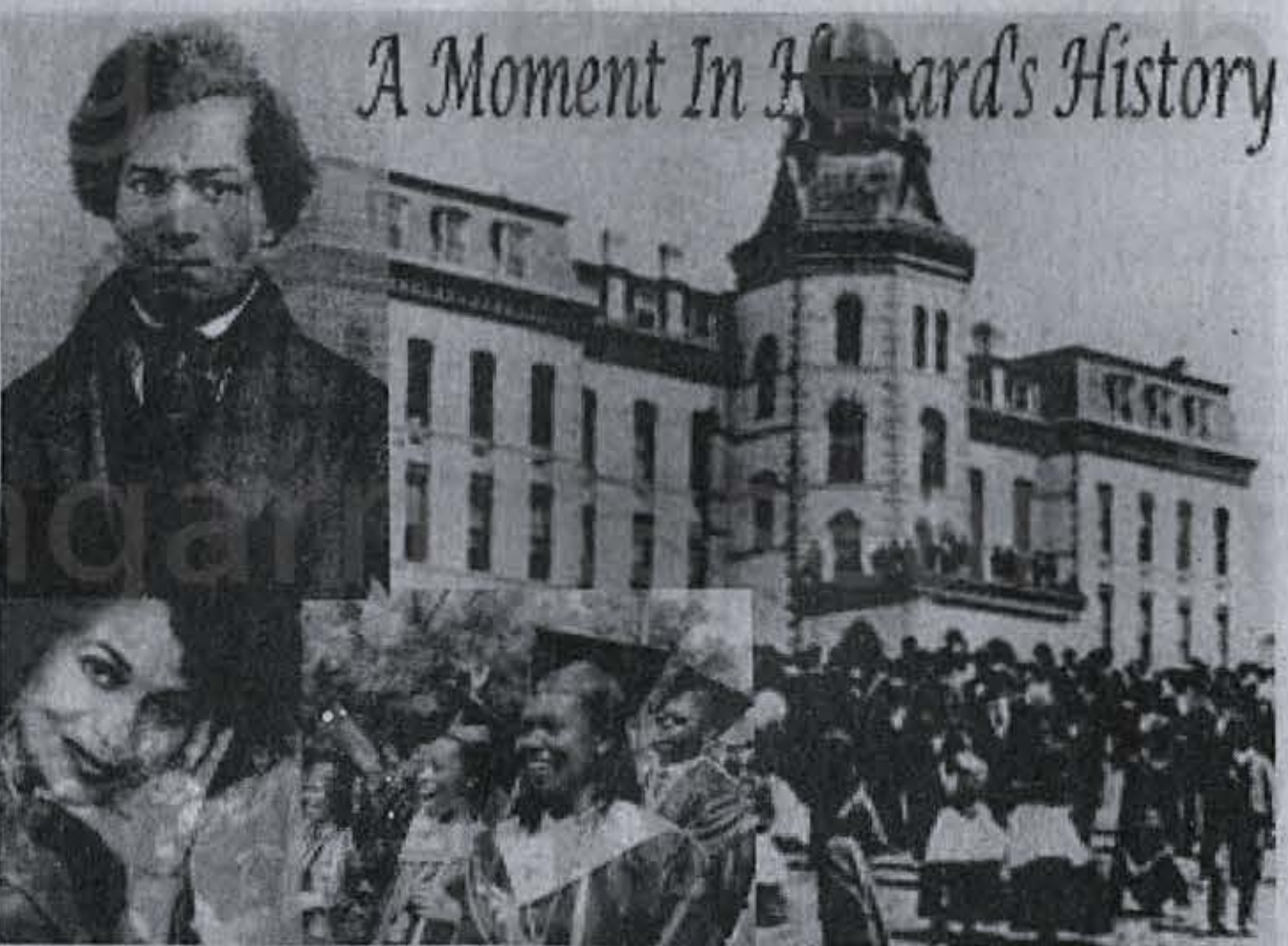
In February 2004, the nation's unemployment rate was 5.6 percent while Black male unemployment was 9.4 percent. Black males also make up half of the nation's prisoners. In the end, Black women are faced with the chal-

lenge of finding a suitable counterpart. Evidence of this struggle is apparent even on Howard's campus.

"I can't really say that there are no good Black men because I am in a relationship with one at Howard," said Avia Hicks-Chapman a sophomore acting major. "But I do feel that because of the uneven gender ratio at Howard, girls have a good reason to feel that there aren't any good Black men. Even if you do find one, there is a good chance they are taken or even gay."

In 1985, Bogart R. Leashore, assistant dean of the School of Social Work, suggested three contributions to the scarcity of good Black men: racism, social Darwinism and the laissez faire ideology of the government, which Black men still face in 2004. In response, Black men have stated a key solution to their problems: support from Black women. At the conference 19 years ago, men stated that Black women need to make sacrifices on how much they want to contribute to a good Black man and offer encouraging words of support to combat negative stereotypes made by White society.

Although this may sound ideal to Black men, some students say the out-



come can not be based solely upon the actions of the Black women. Sophomore biology major Modupeola Dovi believes that it takes the commitment of both sexes to uplift Black men.

"I think Black women can support

Black men, but not to the point where they are dependent on us," Dovi said. "There are good Black men, but it depends on the efforts of both sides. You can't put it on one gender."

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Swygert Addresses Grad Students

BY ASPEN STEIB
Contributing Writer

Howard University President H. Patrick Swygert addressed the graduate and professional students on Thursday, Oct. 7 in a reception sponsored by the Graduate Student Assembly (GSA).

In Carnegie Hall, Swygert spoke about his tenure as a student at Howard 44 years ago. Swygert said that he could not stand in Carnegie and ignore how it was "back in the day." Students laughed at his remark and some graduates in attendance agreed with him.

Swygert spoke about the history of the Carnegie building. Carnegie was built following a gift from Andrew Carnegie in 1910 as Howard's first library building. In 1939, the School of Religion was relocated into the building. Currently, Carnegie holds administrative offices for the Office of University Research, the Graduate School and dean of the Chapel.

Swygert also expressed his concern for the future of the graduate program. He told attending students to take advantage of the opportunities afforded to them at Howard. "There is always time for passion and activism. Don't let your studies define you," Swygert said.

James Johnson, a third year doctoral student in educational psychology and interim administrative secretary for the GSA, said, "I am happy with Howard's administration. I mainly came to Howard for its reputation." Johnson also said that he enjoyed the program.

Orlando Taylor, dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, also spoke at the reception. He told the audience that Howard is unique and irreplaceable and informed the audience that Howard was featured in the New York Times for the mass donation that was recently given to the Campaign for Howard. "We were in the Times for the \$70 million that was given to us by a collaboration of companies. [Other schools] were given money, but we were the only ones featured on the front page. That says a lot about your institution."

Ray Crawford Jr., a Ph.D. student in political science said "I think the administration is doing a good job, but there seems to be a lack of concern, monetarily and academically in the social science area."

"One major problem with Howard's graduate program is that it is under funded. Other Tier 1 institutions have more resources," said Jose Thomas, a third-year developmental psychology doctoral candidate who was also concerned about Howard's graduate funding.

Swygert addressed the concerns of Crawford and Thomas in response to what he plans to do this year.

"We hope to look at the graduate students' stipends this year. The last adjustment was three years ago and it is time to review that. We want to remain competitive in support of graduate students," Swygert said.

"I feel that [the event] was under attended and I feel these types of events should be more appreciated as professional students," Thomas said.

The limited turn out did not seem to affect the overall aura of the event. Students voiced their personal concerns as President Swygert and Dean Taylor addressed each one that approached them personally.

Those in attendance seemed to appreciate the administration's efforts. "I am inclined to appreciate what President Swygert is doing for Howard and I definitely appreciate what Dean Taylor is doing," Thomas said.

Grad Students Dissatisfied with Campus Parking

BY ANIKA E. SANDY-HANSON
Contributing Writer

Commuting is a way of life for most graduate students. The headache of driving to campus is exacerbated when hunting for parking is part of the mix. Increasingly, students come to rely on The Office of Parking and Shuttle Services for permits to the limited University parking lots.

"I really didn't get an understanding of the selection process for parking; they told me that certain disciplines were excluded from the process," said Wayne Johnson II, a Ph.D. pharmacology student.

Although Johnson is a graduate student, many of his classes are in the School of Medicine; therefore, he was referred to that professional school to participate in their system. After talking to a medical student, Johnson went to the People's Involvement Corporation (PIC) and was given a space in their garage.

Many students are not as fortunate to know of other parking resources. Some believe that the University should do more to encourage using public transportation. Nassim Ibrahim, a Ph.D. teaching exchange fellow from Penn State suggests, "Offer incentives

for using public transportation, participate in discount fare programs or have a program where students who use public transportation for a year are guaranteed a parking space the following year." Ibrahim, who also attended The University of Maryland, notes that their policy of building parking garages has successfully accommodated their 85 percent commuter population.

Without some drastic parking improvement strategies, students such as Temika Michaels, a second year Ph.D. student in educational psychology will continue to feel underserved. "Parking sucks," Michaels said. This simple state-

ment echoes the sentiments of graduate professionals and undergraduates alike. However, many students have noted improvements over previous years.

Although he has yet to find permanent parking, David Graham gives credit to the Office of Parking. "The staff is very courteous and while there is room for growth they have made many improvements," Graham said. Students welcome the changes that would eliminate circling for parking as one of the mainstays of the Howard experience.

Perspective

Life Is Much Harder Than You Think

BY JULIUS OMI
Contributing Writer

In a relatively stable environment like Howard University, it is easy for us all to lose the right perspective. However, one does not have to look beyond the shores of the United States, or even the borders of DC, to discover the realities of fellow human beings. Some people are struggling daily to survive and are finding fewer reasons to live for with each passing day, while others are killing each other.

The situation gets worse when you dare to look beyond the confines of the U.S. You can easily find the abject living conditions in many South American countries; unending hostilities, wars and social chaos in the Middle East;

and genocides coupled with colossal dissemination of diseases in Africa just to name a few. Still, everyday, I hear somebody complain about how bad they have had it. So what, you failed an exam? Even worse, you failed a course? Oh, you are in a financial abyss? Your boyfriend or girlfriend broke up with you?

To the above, someone might say, "Well, you have to desensitize yourself to these things to be able to focus on your present goals." To that my response is, "Yes, there has to be a certain level of, but not total, desensitization to these calamities." We have to see our opportunities right now as stepping stone to

reach a place where we can make a difference in the world around us and when we face present difficulties, we should make an effort to put those challenges in the right perspective, tackle them without excessive complaints, and move on. We are in college or post-graduate college, and difficult times are inevitable, but our approach to addressing these challenges will quantify the degree of our successes.

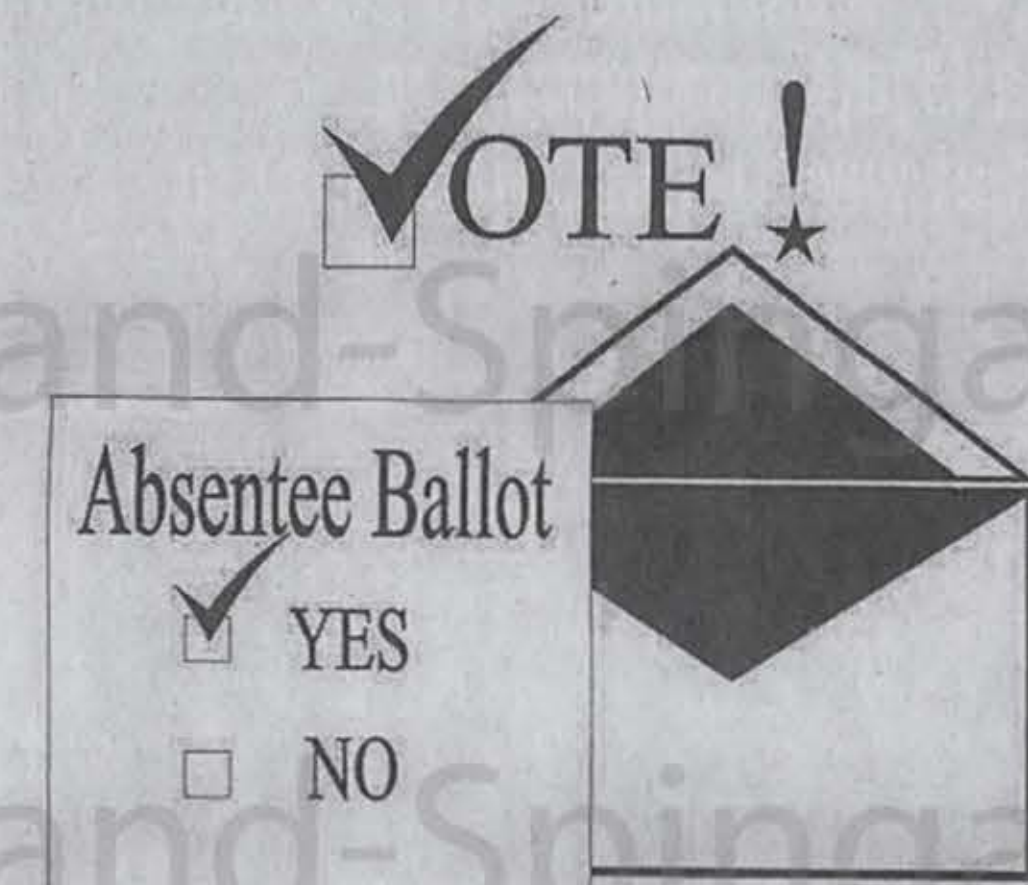
Therefore, next time you think you have got it pretty bad, find out what went wrong, make the appropriate changes or get help, but do not get down on yourself too hard. Some others have it worse.

When it comes down to it, most of us are just trying to be proficient in whatever career paths we have chosen, and create fairly comfortable living situations for families and ourselves. What I am proposing, however, is that we all look around and think of some ways in which we could incorporate "improving the quality of life for the less privileged" with our established aspirations. The "less privileged" could be, among many

others, the kid who just need a chance at life in Southeast D.C., or the pregnant mother in Dafur, Sudan who was not only displaced from her home, but lost her husband to the action of heartless militants.

At present, it is true that there is very little that we could do to solve some of these larger issues besides frequently saying prayers for the affected in anyway we know how. But we could get good practice at being compassionate by beginning to care more about the people around us, offering a helping hand when one is needed, and being sensitive to the feelings of others.

I do not have a messianic complex, but I would like to see us all aware of the world around us. So that the next time we talk or think about our future plans and goals, we can include a well calculated plan of making a difference in the lives of others, especially the less privileged. This is what puts life in true perspective, and makes it worth enjoying.



Young Voters Urged to Act in Upcoming Election

BY KENNETH MAXEY II
Hilltop Staff Writer

About four years ago, the nation went through one of the most complex and excruciating presidential elections in its history. The bizarre experience resulted in one candidate Vice President Al Gore with the most total votes in population, and the other candidate, Gov. George W. Bush with the most electorate votes. The issues of Chad Ballot voting and disenfranchisement in Florida were the concerns that needed a bi-partisan effort that former President Bill Clinton had constructed during his two terms in office. Because of the unprecedented issues, the question became who would win the sunshine state of Florida and the much needed electorate votes.

During this debacle between who had or had not been dealt injustice and unequal opportunity to vote, one of the more important issues became absentee votes. This meant that unlike past elections, the absentee votes that were sent in from overseas, from individuals that were not able to vote in their home state of Florida,

the elderly servicemen and last, but certainly not least, the students whom reside temporarily in states that are not their place of residence, would be a deciding factor on who would be victorious in collecting the electorate vote of Florida.

"Since I have been a student at Howard I have thought about changing my ballot to Maryland, but as we all know, in Ohio every vote matters, therefore I have made it a priority that I cast my absentee vote," said Sayo Abuyomi, second year Ph.D. political science student.

According to Lorenzo Morris, chair of the Political Science department, "Many young eligible voters believe that the process is too complicated. As a result, many just rather not deal. But the truth of the matter is that the process is almost fool proof if your desire is to cast the absentee vote. Organizations such as the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), National Association of Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), churches and your local state secretary should have a website that is capable of

See VOTING, News A7

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CROSS INTO THE BLUE

Author Speaks to Students

AUTHOR, from Campus A3
major David Coleman also feels that media can be more of a sports advocate instead of pushing education.
“Look at all the major shoe companies,” Coleman said. “They have all the Black athletes promoting their products. Black kids are going to be drawn to people that look like them.”
As an athlete and transfer student from the University of Maryland, Coleman has witnessed how going pro can sometimes override educational opportunities.

“Football is football, but at Maryland it’s a business,” Coleman said. “Sports is their life for some athletes. It’s understandable because you get so many more perks being an athlete at the University of Maryland, but the academics are not there. Here at Howard, I know a lot of guys on the football team who have 4.0 grade point averages. At Maryland, there might have been only one.”
Legal communications major Lakeysha Hill has made similar observations about Howard’s football players and other athletes on campus.

“All the athletes I know put their education first and play sports mostly for fun,” Hill said. “I think this is in part due to the Howard environment. We don’t focus so much on athletics as would a Division 1-A school.”
Hill also feels that Moss’ book is important to the African-American community.
“Moss’ book talks about the value of education and how society can sometimes push us toward athleticism,” she said. “This may be due to the fact that young athletes don’t have enough positive role models.”

Bush, Kerry Go Head to Head

DEBATE, from Campus A1
impose his beliefs on others. Bush said Kerry was “out of the mainstream” on abortion and that he believed “in a culture of life.” The president said he respected the views of those who differ with him on this issue and promised to look for other ways to reduce

the number of abortions performed in America. The two men reached consensus on only one issue discussed at Wednesday’s debate, and that was gay marriage. Both candidates agreed that marriage should remain between a man and a woman but disagreed on rather-or-not they thought homosexuality was a choice.

“I don’t know,” Bush said. Kerry said he thought it wasn’t a choice and that “We’re all God’s children.” Both campaigns say that Wednesday’s debate was critical to deciding the outcome of this year’s race. A Reuters/Zogby poll released the day of the debate showed Bush and Kerry tied at 45 percent.

Student Help in the Community

BLACK, from Campus A2
not wait for this government, for these people, for anybody else to do it for us.”
In addition, to hosting the events, Ellhillali is attempting to forge an organization dedicated to “Pledging unity... Promoting justice... Transcending compromise...”
The proposed group may be called Organization of Black Unity and will involve five committees designated to restoration, reorientation, education, economic and political power, and self-defense.
“The purpose of the orga-

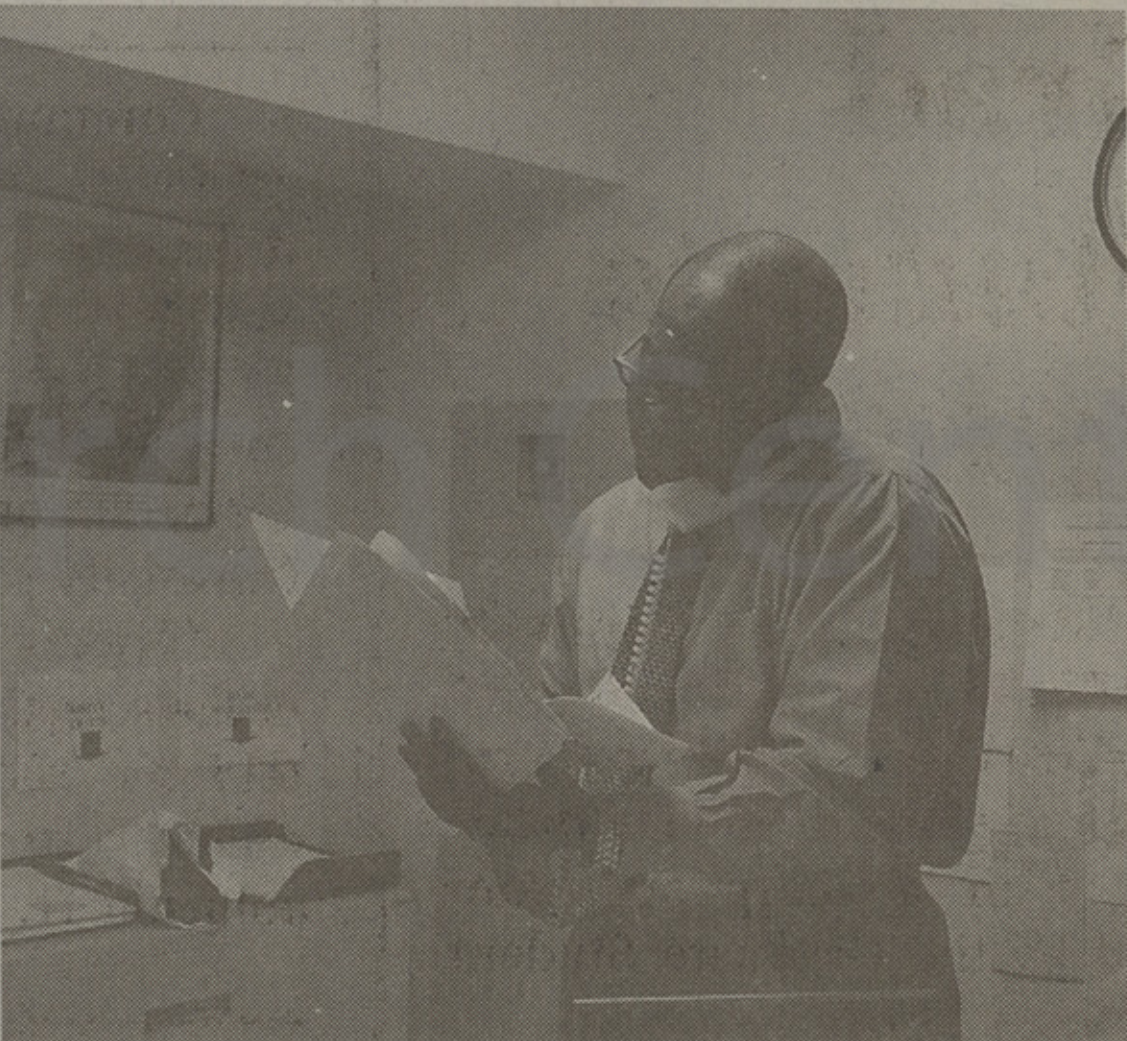
nization is to educate the Black population and help us to be able to do for ourselves,” Elhillali said. “It’s for anybody of African descent, Asian descent, Central American descent, any people of color. Anybody can come to the class, but the organization is to build up the community.”
However, until the organization is on its feet, the primary outlet of this drive to better the community is the discussion series. Students urge their peers to join the sessions.
“More students should definitely attend so that they can gain knowledge of self and

we can build the necessary foundations to develop and grow as a people,” said junior advertising major Dominique Boyd, who has been a loyal attendee of three years.
“We as a black people can not further develop ourselves if we continue to allow the oppression in our communities,” Caselle said
Anyone interested in aiding Elhillali with the development of the Organization of Black Unity or attending the lecture series can contact him via e-mail at eleloh9999@hotmail.com.

HU a Second Home for Bland

BLAND, from Campus A4

tive attitude are the keys to success,” Bland said. “Instead of sending an e-mail, I don’t mind going over to Residence Life to talk with employees. Howard is my home so I feel comfortable meeting and talking with people and establishing relationships. It makes a difference.”
Bland, a Detroit native, enjoys working out and participating in community service. He currently works with Share Metro, an organization that distributes food to different community resources and to the homeless. A former musician, he also enjoys listening to reggae music and going to jazz clubs.
“When I was growing up, [playing] music was something that I just loved to do,” said Bland, who attended Howard on a music scholarship. “I played any brass instrument, but my primary instrument was the trombone.”
With such a strong devotion to Howard, Bland’s future plans include earning a Ph.D. and returning to the University to work in higher administration.
“Anything that I can do to give students



Mark King- Staff Photographer

Wilson Bland in a business manager for the Howard Plaza Towers, but enjoys growing intellectually through interaction with students.
guidance or assist them to get their degree and move on to something else, I’m going to do,” Bland said. “I love Howard and I love Howard students.”

Importance of Absentee Voting

VOTING, from Graduate A6

supplying with the information on how to cast absentee votes.”
“Vote from the comfort of your home,” is what Bush’s brother Jeb Bush, Governor of Florida said to Floridians in 2000 before the election. As a result, the nation reported on the significance of the absentee ballots in the 2000 election. Jeb Bush and his plea, for voting from the comfort of your home, resulted in more than Florida’s 67 counties showing up and more than 700,000 Florida voters or just about one in eight who voted absentee. This meant that George W. Bush had captured about 125,000 more absentee votes than Vice Presidential candidate Al Gore.
The enormous, but secretive absentee ballot attack was the Republicans “down low” approach in the Florida elections. Many Republicans argue that

it was a smart, successful and clever approach. On the other side, some Democrats believe it served as unfair advantage of both the governor’s office and the absentee voting process.
According to Morris, the Republicans outspent the Democrats, eight to one, in advertising designed to reach overseas military personnel. Thanks to the overall absentee vote, Bush already led Gore in Florida by 125,000 votes when election day dawned. Although many believed after some early exit polls, that Gore was the choice of voters on Nov. 7 in Florida, the truth was that based on the 537 more absentee ballots cast. Bush had taken what had been a celebration into a moment of disbelief for democratic hopeful Gore on election night. GOP operatives were aware that the absentee voters had not participated in the exit polls that the television net-

works were using to determine the winner of Florida’s presidential sweepstakes.
Therefore, the calmness of the Republicans was expected by many of who had anticipated the absentee ballots. Randy Enwright, a Bush consultant and former state Republican executive director who helped develop the party’s drive for absentee votes, said, “That was a large part of the reason I didn’t think the election was over on election night.”
This is why several Howard students feel the sense of the need to vote absentee this election year. “It is critical and it is our obligation to cast those absentee votes,” said Abuyomi. Students may check online www.afl-cio.org to find out the process for absentee voting for their individual state.

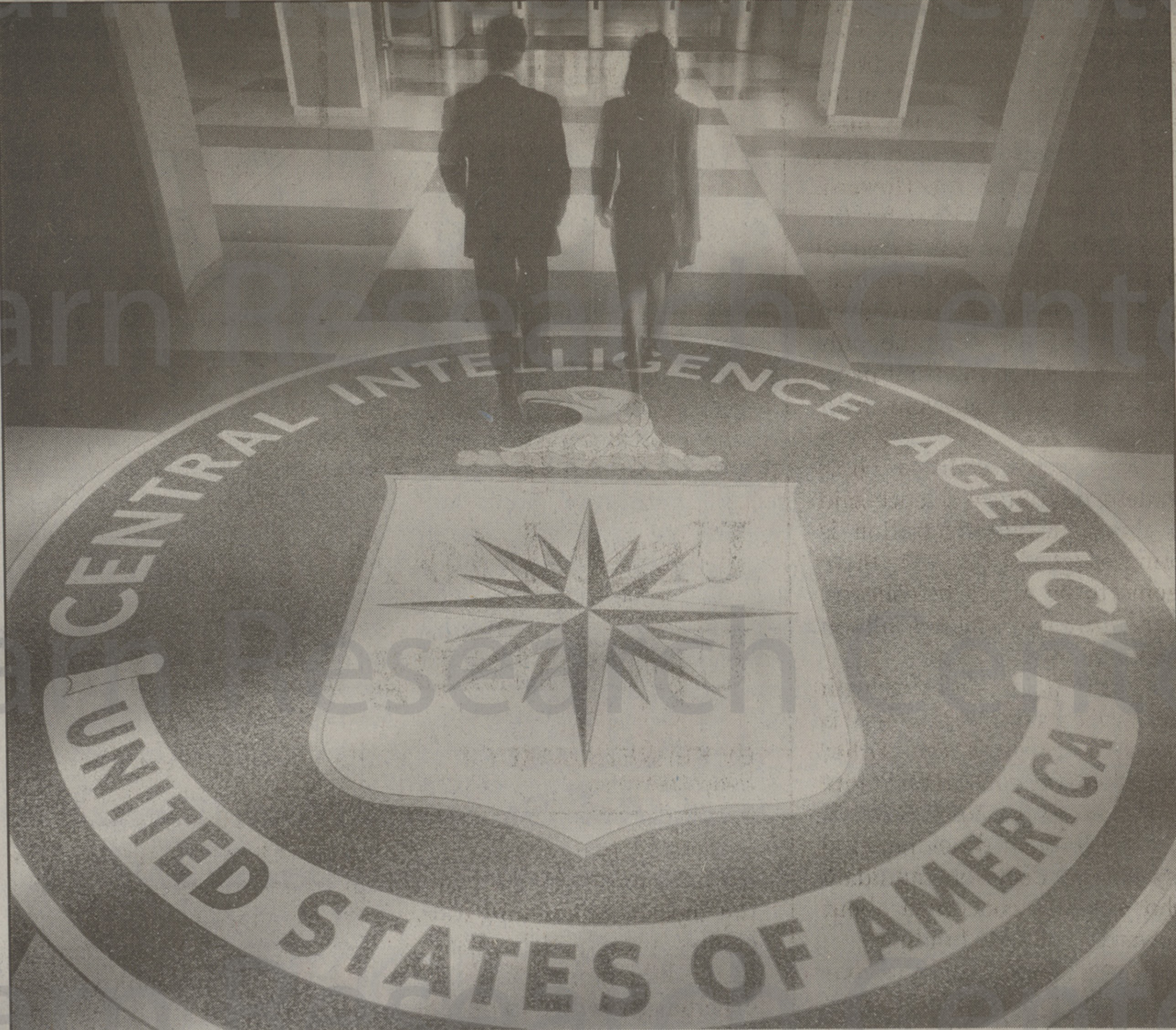
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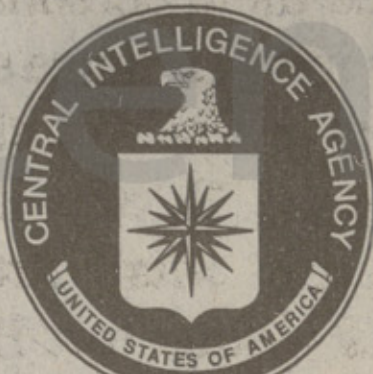
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Burgeoning Blunders

BY ZACHARY KENWORTHY
Sports Editor

I thought the NFL was bad enough. In the League's attempt to stamp out any non-conformity, it reacted poorly to some players' requests to keep Pat Tillman's number 40 decal on their helmets. Tillman, who was killed in combat in Afghanistan after passing up a multi-million dollar NFL deal, was honored in week two by the entire league as every player wore a number 40 decal on their helmets to show support for his courage and family. A week later commissioner Paul Tagliabue and the NFL wanted the decal removed.

In a similar nonsensical move by out-of-touch officials, 26 high school cross-country runners were disqualified this weekend in Virginia for wearing Lance Armstrong's yellow "LIVESTRONG" bracelets. To make matters worse, the runners were not told that they would be disqualified for wearing the bracelets at the start of the race. Rather, they were told that they couldn't wear jewelry. The young runners, much like myself, were totally unaware that Armstrong's elastic cause constituted jewelry.

Apparently, those who drew up the rules for the cross country events this season at Virginia Beach believe that runners should not wear jewelry as such items can cause injury. These same officials obviously aren't aware of the injury that such rules, interpreted terribly out of context, can cause.

Evidently watches aren't considered jewelry as each runner in the Virginia race was allowed to time themselves, see how long they have before dinner, or figure out how much time they have left before they graduate. Either way, Armstrong's "LIVESTRONG" bracelet, in all its rubbery risk, was deemed more dangerous than watches and provided the door and the boot for 26 poor athletes.

For the third week in a row, Denver Broncos quarterback and former Tillman teammate Jake Plummer wore the number 40 decal on his helmet. He wore it with pride and expects to be fined for it. The NFL gave all players the sticker to put on their helmets and then, a week later, as if Tillman's memory had already faded into some forgotten Afghani wasteland, the league wanted it gone.

Maybe Plummer's memory doesn't fade as quickly as the rest of the NFL's, or maybe he wants the number 40 just above his left shoulder for the remainder of the year. Maybe he wants it to remind him of the sacrifice, the lives lost and all that he is grateful for. Maybe he just wants it to remind him of Tillman. Whatever the case, the decal will not be gone from Plummer's helmet.

What should be gone are officials and rules that trivialize timely matters. The "LIVESTRONG" bracelets do not detract from the race itself. Rather they highlight a cause that is at the forefront of American culture. Similarly, the number 40 decal is not a uniform violation, as outlined by the NFL's rulebook. Rather, it is a reminder of the American spirit, dream and courage. Fining a player for reminding us is a violation in itself.

BY ROBIN WILLIAMS
Contributing Writer

Taking America and the entire soccer world by storm, Freddy Adu, the 15-year-old soccer sensation, is living up to all of the hype. Often compared to teen phenom Le Bron James, the 2004 NBA Rookie of the Year, Freddy Adu is not only in the spotlight, but he has embraced it, handling himself like a veteran while producing the numbers throughout.

During an interview with The Hilltop after DC United's most recent game at RFK Stadium, Adu stated, "The expectations I have for myself are pretty high." Speaking on his progression into the major leagues, Adu says he has noticed a difference in his playing from the first half of the season. "It had a lot to do with my confidence level," he admitted.

According to him, there were also other factors that affected his performance including support from his teammates. "My teammates are great, I get a lot of support from them. They treat me like one of the guys," Adu said.

According to ESPN.com, Freddy will be receiving his high school diploma in May through an advanced placement course in Florida, making him "the youngest person to play for a major American team since 14-year-old Fred Chapman debuted for Philadelphia of major league baseball's American Association in 1887."

However, many have questioned Adu's ability and whether he is actually as young as he says he is. When questioned about the subject of his age, Adu said, "I can't say anything about that, I take it as a compliment. If people say that you're older than what you really are, obviously you're doing something



Freddy Adu, still in his teens, already has three MLS goals to his name. In addition to Adu's \$1 million contract with Nike, he is the highest paid player in the MLS with a \$500,000 contract.

right," he said jokingly.

After moving to Maryland in 1997 from Ghana, Adu continued to compete in soccer, making his mark in several European camps and international competitions. Not long after scoring three goals in the under - 17 world championship international competition in

August, Adu was selected as the No. 1 pick overall by DC United in this year's draft which carried along with it a league high salary of \$500,000 and a \$1 million Nike shoe contract.

Allowing him to avoid the stress of moving away from home, D.C. was the perfect fit, giving him the opportunity to

stay with his family in Maryland, which is where he resides today. In Freddy's opinion, this has helped him tremendously. "It's good having the support of my family," he said.

Making his debut in Major League Soccer's opening game at RFK Stadium v. San Jose on April 3, it was evident how many supporters he actually has. Even away from home, his fan base has been steady as he admitted, "It's been great away from home."

Although he only played one half in the opener and didn't score, he held his own during the times when he had the ball. The opener was just the calm before the storm as he scored his first career major league goal against the Metro Stars in a 3-2 victory on April 17.

On Oct. 2, Adu scored the game-winner against the Metro Stars in a subsequent match-up and although he only played five minutes this weekend against New England, he has continued to learn. "I worked hard for the five minutes that I was in. Whether you're in for two minutes or five minutes you just have to play your heart out."

Watching the teen sensation play, one can agree that Freddy Adu can and will bring tremendous amounts of American fan fare to the sport of soccer, a sport that is not as popular in the states as it is overseas. Commenting on Freddy and his popularity, technical director for DC United Dave Kasper says, "Freddy is a special talent... many fans can relate to him."

Despite the fact that he is an extremely young talent in a challenging, physical sport, Kasper is sure about Adu's temperament. "Freddy handles everything very well. His game has progressed 100 percent since he first came into the pro environment."

Three in a Row; Next Up Morgan State

BY ZACHARY KENWORTHY
Sports Editor

When the Howard University Bison take on the Morgan State Bears this Saturday at Greene Stadium it will be a match up that pits arguably the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference's best defensive unit against its best

offense. In what has been a fierce display of defensive superiority, the Bison have allowed a mere 23 points in its last three games as it takes on an offensive unit that has been posting huge numbers thus far in 2004. More importantly for the Bison, this game is the first of the team's final six outings, all of which are conference fixtures.

After giving up 74 points in the team's first two games, the Bison have refocused and look poised to make a serious run at the MEAC title. "It is not so much the adjustments that we have made defensively," assured Head Coach Ray Petty on Wednesday. "It is the number of turnovers that has dwindled. We have protected the ball better and haven't given the other teams as many chances as we did in the first two games."

With a potential showdown highlighted the best defensive and offensive unit in the conference, Coach Petty believes that the key match up will be in the trenches as Howard's defensive lineman look to pressure Morgan quarterback Bradshaw Littlejohn and create mistakes from the pocket. "The key is definitely at the line of scrimmage. This may be the best



Mike Sanders is part of a staunch Howard defense that has surrendered a meager 23 points in the last three games.

quarterback and offense that we will face," he concluded.

Morgan State's high-octane offense is powered by Littlejohn and his core of receivers who have been averaging almost 40 points a game on the year. Littlejohn, who is also agile out of the passer's pocket, rushed for 402 yards last year and is one of the better pure athletes in the conference. "They've been averaging pretty big numbers

all year on offense," continued Coach Petty.

The Bison defense, however, should not be too perturbed. The Buffalo Soldiers are a unit that boasts standout defensive backs Antoine Bethea and Ronald Bartell Jr. Bethea, who has, thus far, had an outstanding senior year, added another interception and seven

See BISON, News B3



Jesse Haynes hunts down Charleston Southern quarterback Collin Drafts.

All Aboard The Cuban Express

BY COURTNEY MAYE
Contributing Writer

The stadium lights go up and the Cuban athlete shines even brighter. Die-hard fans of Cuban baseball players can tell you their stats but cannot tell you how or why they got to play ball in the United States. Many are unaware as to how the Cuban athlete has become such a success-

ful phenomenon here at home. "De-what?" was the most common response by students here on campus to trials that most Cuban athletes take to get a chance. That is, defecation everyone.

In the Cuban Sports world, one has to make a choice when it comes to establishing his or herself in the professional sports world. Either these athletes sell our or

they are rented out.

Many of Cuba's top athletes and trainers are sent abroad each year to earn money for their government. Cubans are sent to play foreign countries such as Venezuela, El Salvador, Guatemala, Colombia, Spain, Greece and Italy. In essence, they are being rented out and pack stadiums across the globe. For Cubans, sport is seen as a way to make money

and as Cuba is still a communist state, about 80 percent goes back to the government. This money is used to fund the country's sports programs such as INDER (Instituto Nacional de Deportes, Educacion Fisica, y Recreacion). This program is recognized as one of the country's leading producers of great players and coaches.

Raudol Ruiz, a

co-founder of INDER explained the mission of the program. According to a publication by the Caribbean Project Center for Latin American Studies at Georgetown University, Ruiz said, "We wanted sports...to educate the people and create a new generation. We experimented with sports to try to find a method

See CUBAN, Sports B2

Raising The Stakes: The HBCU Football Player

BY HEATHER FAISON
Contributing Writer

Jackson State University produced the NFL's all-time leading rusher and a Hall Of Fame inductee, Walter Payton. Mississippi Valley State University trained the NFL all-time leading receiver Jerry Rice. Grambling University has sent more players to the NFL than any other school, including Division One.

These feats are evidence of the legendary football traditions and achievements at historically Black colleges and universities that commonly go unnoticed.

See HBCU, News B3



Before Emmit Smith broke his record, Walter Payton ran for more yards than any other NFL running back with 16,726 yards in his career.

Sports, Entertainment and Advertising: All Wrapped up in Each Other

BY KONAHE JERNIGAN
Hilltop Staff Writer

Sports and entertainment, or are these things one in the same? In this day and age it is rare to view sports and entertainment as two separate entities. More and more athletes are venturing into the entertainment industry and vice versa. A question arises: can they still really be considered two separate industries?

"They are two separate industries. For the most part, athletes are just athletes and it's the same way with entertainers," said sophomore biology major Joseph Graves. Some Howard students disagree with Graves.

"I think sports and entertainment are one in the same. Athletes are viewed as entertainers. If their ratings or fan base drops its because they aren't entertaining them, said sophomore finance major Charde Kelly.

The recent Hollywood release, "Mr. 3000," was about a boastful Major League Baseball (MLB) player whose career hits won him a spot in the coveted 3000 Club, a group of baseball greats who managed to get 3000 or more hits during their career. While watching this movie one might wonder whether they were watching a movie or an ESPN special. The movie producer may argue that he was going for a realistic feel, but any business major would tell you other wise. "Mr. 3000" contained scenes involving ESPN broadcasts, "SportsCenter," "The Best Damn Sports Show," CNN and others. The movie even went as far making the female lead Angela Basset an ESPN reporter.

There is no doubt a connection between sports and entertainment exists, but some students feel the connection takes away from the athleticism in sports and the artistic value of entertainment.

Freshman theatre arts administration major Alorie Clark said, "I don't like to see athletes acting in movies or on television. Most of the time they lack the skills to perform well. Their presence chips away at the hard work real actors or entertainers put into their craft."

Other Howard students agreed that the closely intertwined relationship sports and entertainment has detrimental affects on athleticism.

"I think because sports is seen as another entertainment field, a stronger focus is put on entertaining instead of teamwork. For instance, if someone can dribble well or constantly hits home runs, people find it interesting, but those things don't necessarily help the team," Kelly said.

NASCAR already identifies their cars by the advertisers who fund them. NBA, NFL and MLB stadiums are saturated with advertising logos and market test items. With the names of sponsors plastered everywhere, all the sports-based films that have been made and the ones that will be made, all the advertisement posted in sporting arenas and all the endorsement deals floating around, students and sports fans alike are left to wonder will the entertainment and advertising industries take over the arena or have they silently done so already?

Sophomore business management major John Minor thinks that the sports industry is the perfect avenue for both the advertising and entertainment industry.

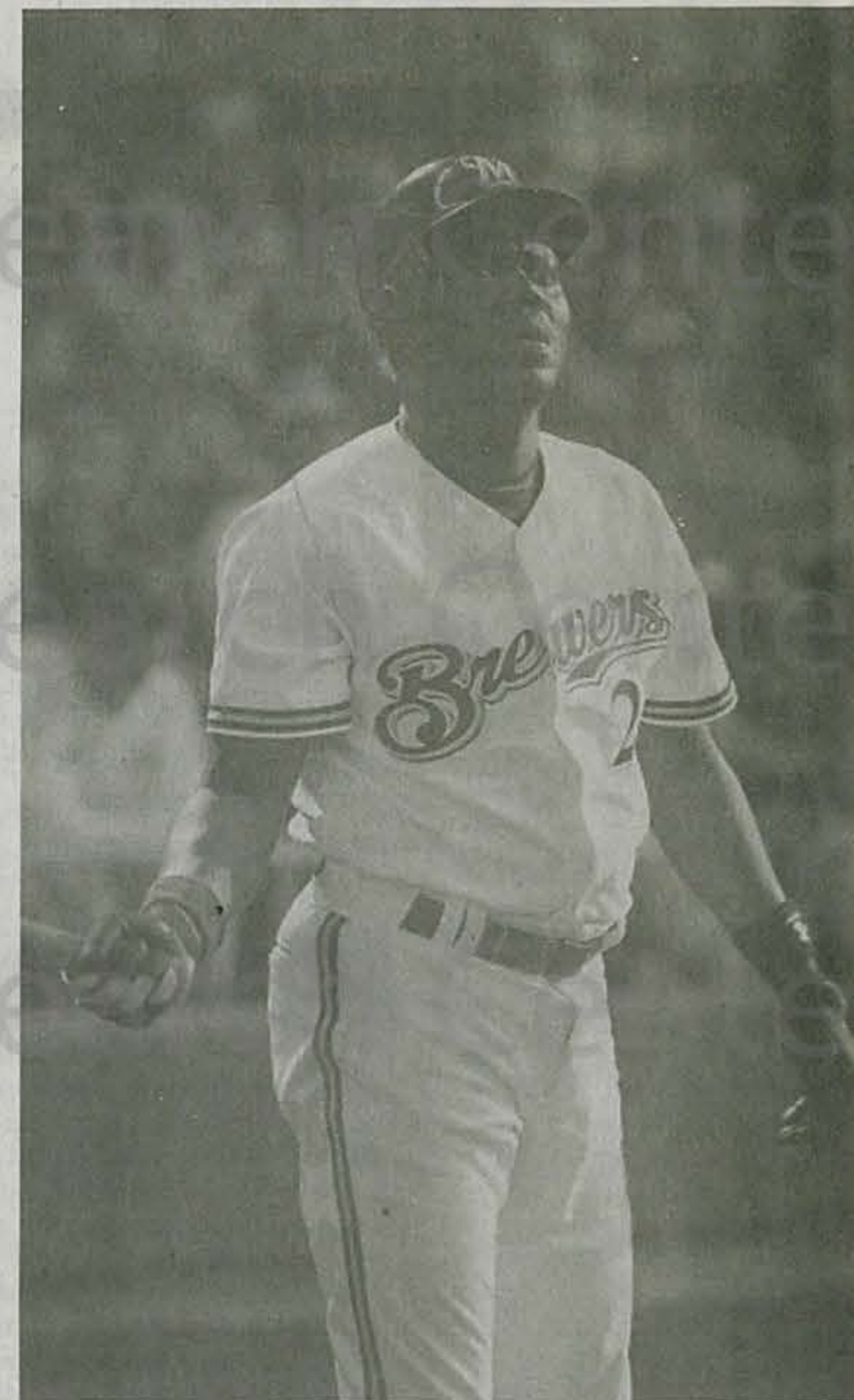
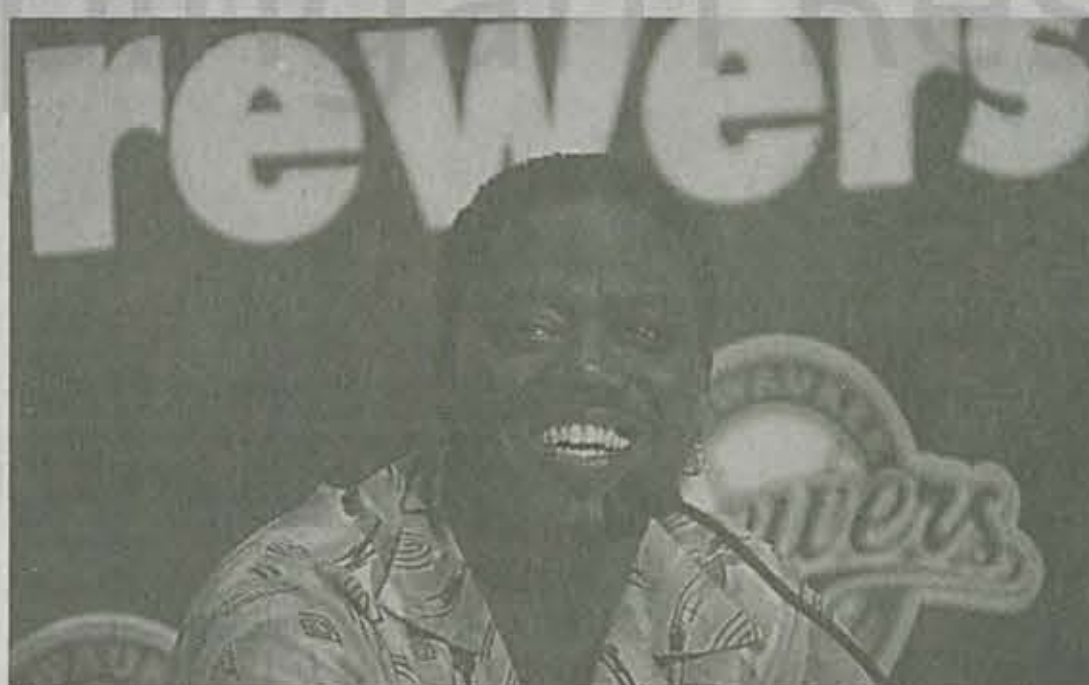
"Sporting events are excellent venues for advertising. If the momentum

stays the same in about five years players will start to wear uniforms with company logos on them," Minor said.

Students feel different about the relationship between sports, entertainment and advertising. Still, it all boils down to could the sporting industry continue to be a billion dollar industry without the help of the entertainment and advertising industry?

When a team is doing bad, a product giveaway will almost always increase fan attendance. Some teams do not have their own Tracy McGrady, Kobe Bryant or any other superstar that is guaranteed to move tickets, a guest appearance from an entertainer will bring a crowd. When products need an extra push or movies a person to make movies goers spend money, add a professional athlete and sales go up. All three of these industries are depend on each other to increase the most important thing: profits.

Junior international business major Francisca French said, "I don't think anything is wrong with the interconnectedness of these industries [sports, entertainment and advertising], as long they don't create an unfair playing ground."



Bernie Mac portrays a retired MLB player who tries to make a comeback to get his 3,000 career hit. Mac's character thought he had already hit his 3,000th hit.



Soccer - The United States Soccer team defeated Panama on Wednesday night 6-0 in a World Cup Qualifier. Team captain Landon Donovan started the route, as he slotted home the first two goals of the contest. Second half substitute Eddie Johnson then added a hat trick as the Americans ensured that they would be moving on to the next round of matches.

Baseball - San Francisco star slugger Barry Bonds underwent arthroscopic surgery this past Tuesday on his knee. The 20-minute procedure was merely a "minor arthritis-cleanup" for the outfielder. He is expected to make a full recovery before Spring training next March.

Football - NFL star wide receiver Jerry Rice met with team officials and Oakland Raiders' owner Al Davis this past Wednesday. Rice, who has been unhappy of late with his lack of a role in the Raiders' offense, expressed his feelings on a Sacramento radio station earlier in the week. Concerning the situation, Head Coach Norv Turner said, "If there's something that can be done, it will be done."

Basketball - NBA No.1 overall pick Dwight Howard scored 18 points and had 9 rebounds in his pre-season debut for the Orlando Magic on Tuesday. Howard showed that he is still raw as he went 2 for 8 from the foul line.



Landon Donovan.

Cuban Athletes Relocate

CUBAN, from Sports B1

that would permit mass participation in sports, to give everyone the opportunity to practice and play sports. At the same time, we wanted competition, the climax of sports, to have an ideological foundation while serving as a process of collective, accelerated development."

Those athletes who support Cuba's domestic and international political goal are loyal to the programs and are comfortable with being used as a tool to bolster the country's earning power. They are willing to be rented out.

However, many other Cuban athletes have persevered and shed the blood, sweat and tears necessary to attain the American Dream. Those who are successfully playing in the major leagues have left their roots behind and are earning their own money and providing for their families. Sadly, many have left behind families, mourning mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters. No matter how much money some players earn, they will never be able to reach out to their families.

Reynaldo Ordonez, a Cuban baseball player who defected in 1993, now plays with the Chicago Cubs. Eleven years ago, Ordonez made the decision to defect so that he could provide for his family, wife and child back at home. Ordonez achieved his

major league dream, however through time and distance, he has left the other part of his life far behind. The mother of Ordonez's child recently commented in an article by the New York Times that, "He has never taken any interest in the boy at all." This wicked cycle has become a reality for many Cuban athletes who will never go back home. These players have sold out.

It is a situation that poses many delicate intricacies for athletes and family members alike. Many are unaware of the hardships and trauma faced by Cuban athletes hoping to attain a place in sporting history.

"I know they (Cuba) have a helluva pitching staff," exclaimed Rawn Bosley, a sophomore biology major.

Cuba has produced some of the best baseball players of the modern era. Players like Rolando Arroyo of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, Livan Hernandez of the Expos and Osvaldo Fernandez of the San Francisco Giants are all producing for their respective teams. However, many Americans are not cognizant of this fact as Cuban ballplayers go underappreciated. In a documentary by PBS, sports anthropologist Alan Klein noted, "I think America as a whole and major league baseball doesn't really fully appreciate what the Cuban political system did for the game."



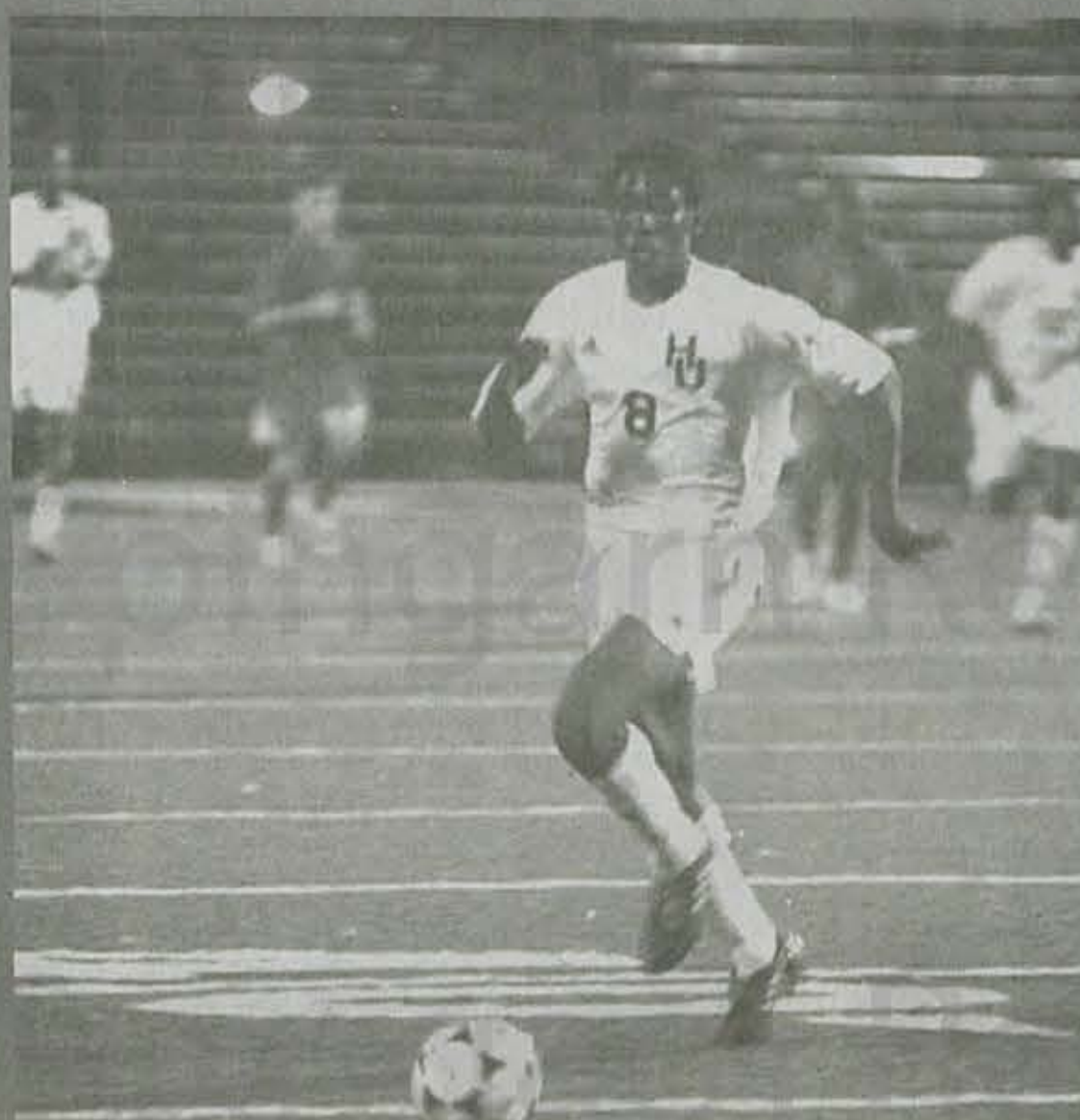
Cuban pitcher Livan Hernandez won a World Series ring with the Florida Marlins in 1997. He is now heading for the nation's capital with the Montreal Expos for the 2005 season.

Bess Named ASC Rookie of the Week

BY ED HILL
Special to The Hilltop

Jonnie Bess has been named the Atlantic Soccer Conference Rookie of the Week for the second time this season. Bess, a 5-2, 175-pound freshman forward from Stafford, VA, scored the game-winning goal in Howard's 1-0 win over Adelphi University this past Saturday in a conference road game.

Bess currently leads the team in scoring with three goals and is one of the keys to the Bison winning two out of their last three games.



AP Photo/Photography

HBCU Football Players Do Go Pro

HBCU, from Sports B1

During the Black college football dynasties of the 1960-1970s, it was not unusual for 22 players from one team to be drafted into the NFL.

The number of NFL draft picks from historically Black colleges and universities (HBCU) has drastically declined since integration as these once dominate football powerhouses are sending less than a dozen players combined to the NFL. Many have argued that inadequate facilities and lack of funding lure the country's top prospects to Division 1-A programs.

"Nine out of 10 times the facilities [at Division 1-A schools] will be better. If I'm serious about my sport and about football, I'm going to where there is the most money to support my talent," stated Cecelia Thomas, a junior African-American studies major.

Howard University starting safety, junior criminal justice major Devon Goldring, agreed with Thomas in terms of facilities and raised the issue of Division 1-A schools receiving more exposure. "Division 1-A athletes are so widely publicized...the biggest disadvantage [of playing for an HBCU program] would clearly be exposure," Goldring said.

Although HBCU players with NFL aspirations have the media odds against them, there

have been players who have torn through the Division 1-A media monopoly. Tennessee Titans quarterback and Alcorn State University alumni Steve McNair was virtually unknown to the major sports media throughout his years at his alma mater. McNair captured the attention of ESPN's SportsCenter when he broke an NCAA record for total career yards his senior year.

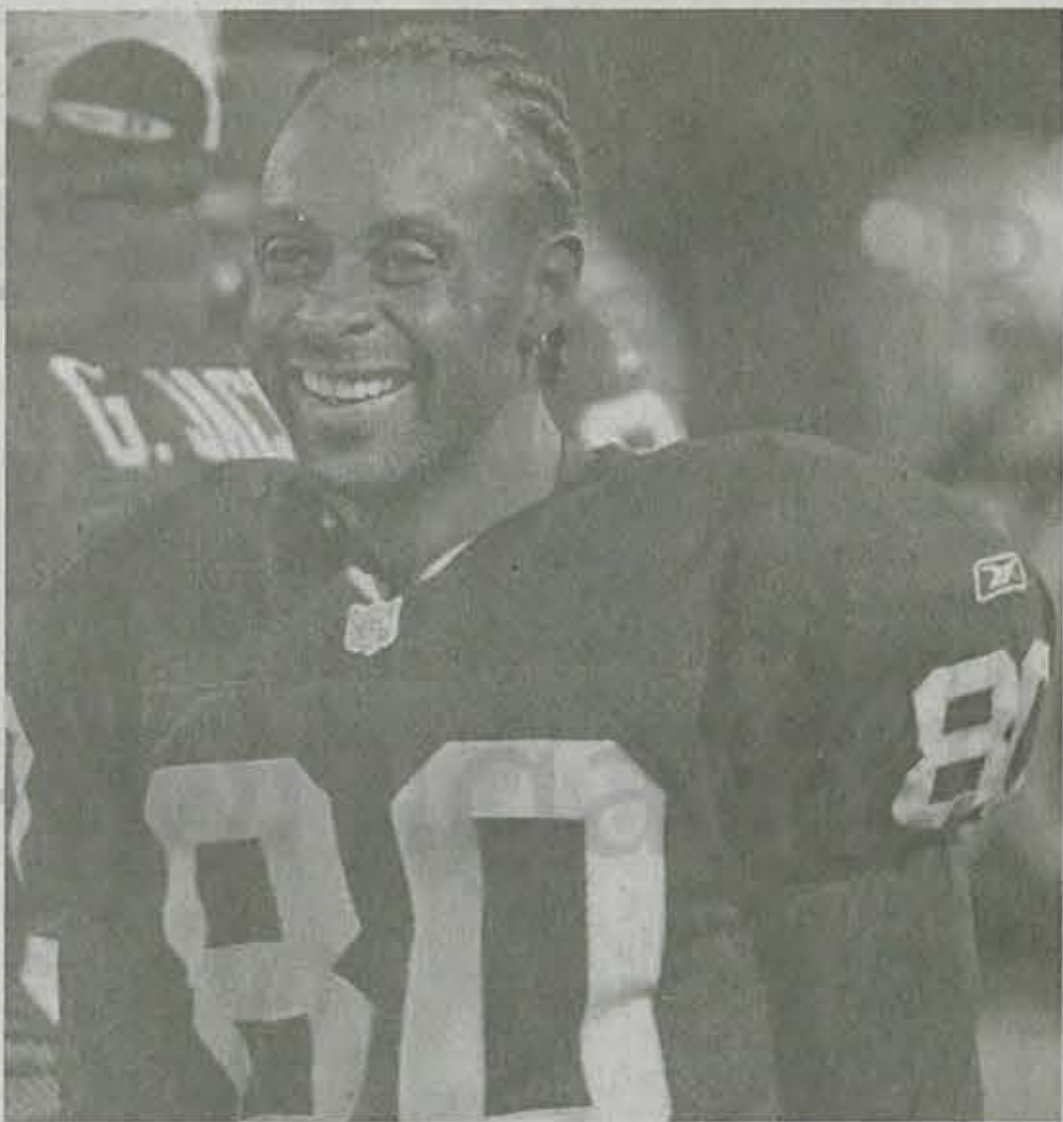
Head Coach Rayford Petty of the Howard University football team pointed out that Howard's players receive attention from NFL scouts, which gives them the opportunity they need to play professionally. "If there is any talent [on the team], the [NFL scouts] come in the fall and come back in the spring to see if any one has prevailed," Coach Petty said.

The scouts who have visited the school this season have shown considerable interest in senior defensive back Ronald Bartell Jr., who is one out of several players being considered for the draft.

"He's definitely ready. Mentally he's ready, and physically he's ready to go out and compete at the NFL level," Petty said.

Bartell, a Division 1-A transfer student from Central Michigan University, came to Howard University with one goal: making the NFL.

Some, such as freshman biology major Norman Gyamfi,



Jerry Rice, who also attended a HBCU, is the NFL's leading wide receiver.

argue that Bartell's Division 1-A exposure prior to attending Howard contributed to his current NFL skill level.

"He got exposure due to the fact that he was a [Division 1-A] transfer, so he came in good," Gyamfi said.

Bartell strongly rejected this assumption. "I feel like I'm a better player because of coming to Howard. I don't think [attending a Division 1-A university] has any bearing. Actually, I think if I had played for the coach I'm playing for

now, I'd be a lot better."

Even with the odds against them, historically Black colleges and universities produce NFL caliber players each year and continue their successful football legacies with dignity and success.

The standards set by prominent NFL players such as Grambling's Tank Young and Morgan State's Willie Lanier have made it possible for any player at a historically Black college to make his professional football aspirations a reality.



Continuing the Streak

BISON, from Sports B1

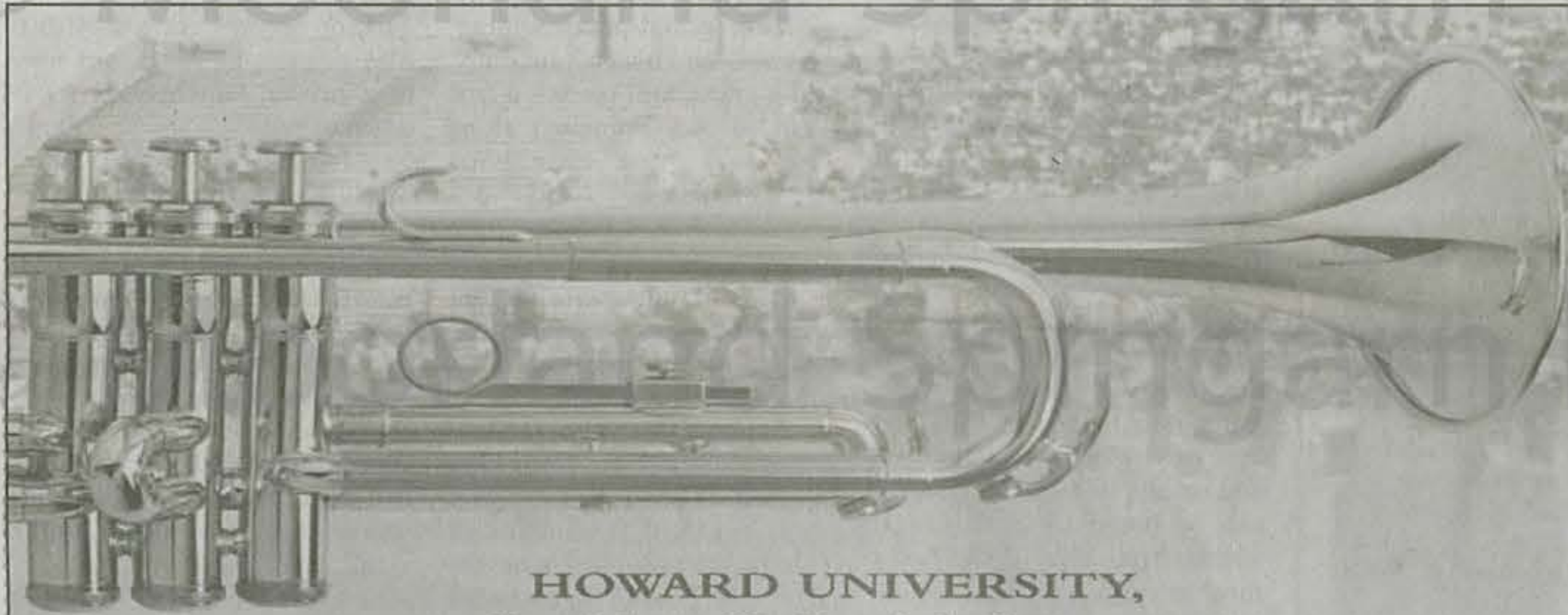
sacks to add to his season tallies last week. Bethea and the Bison suffocated a bewildered Charlestown Southern offense and only gave up six points late in the fourth quarter.

On offense, Howard has been juggernaut-like on the ground. With a 182 yards per game average on the 2004 season, Jay Colbert, Antoine Rutherford and the entire offensive line have been just short of spectacular. "In particular I want to make mention of Willie Shine and Brandon Torrey. I think they have been doing an outstanding job up front for us," assured Coach Petty.

Although the passing game has been the weaker link on the Buffalo Soldier offense, quarterback Marcos Moreno has looked

more poised than at the beginning of the season and Howard's young group of wide receivers have proven to be strong in the clutch. "I think for Moreno it is just time. He is starting to believe in his offensive line a little more. We are expecting him to be more poised now."

The Bison offense will also have the luxury of going up against one of the MEAC's weaker defensive units. Morgan State is giving up 44 points a game on the season and have been exploited both with the pass and on the ground by opponents. With the defense going head-to-head with a potent Morgan attack, it may be the offense that steals the day for the Bison.



HOWARD UNIVERSITY,
President H. Patrick Swygert,
the Board of Trustees,
Howard University Hospital,
THE ISLAND DEF JAM MUSIC GROUP,
and the 2004 Homecoming Steering Committee

Present:

"PHENOMENON: AN EPISODIC OCCURRENCE"

2004 HOMECOMING PARADE

Saturday, October 30, 2004

10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

The Parade will commence on the campus of Howard University (Mordecai Wyatt Johnson Administration Building #1—2400-6th Street, NW), and proceed southbound on Georgia Avenue, NW, past the Presidential Reviewing Stand and the Howard University Hospital, and through the historic LeDroit Park Community where Junior High Schools, Senior High Schools and Community and Local Bands will compete for cash prizes in the

**Sixth Annual
"Showcase of Bands"**

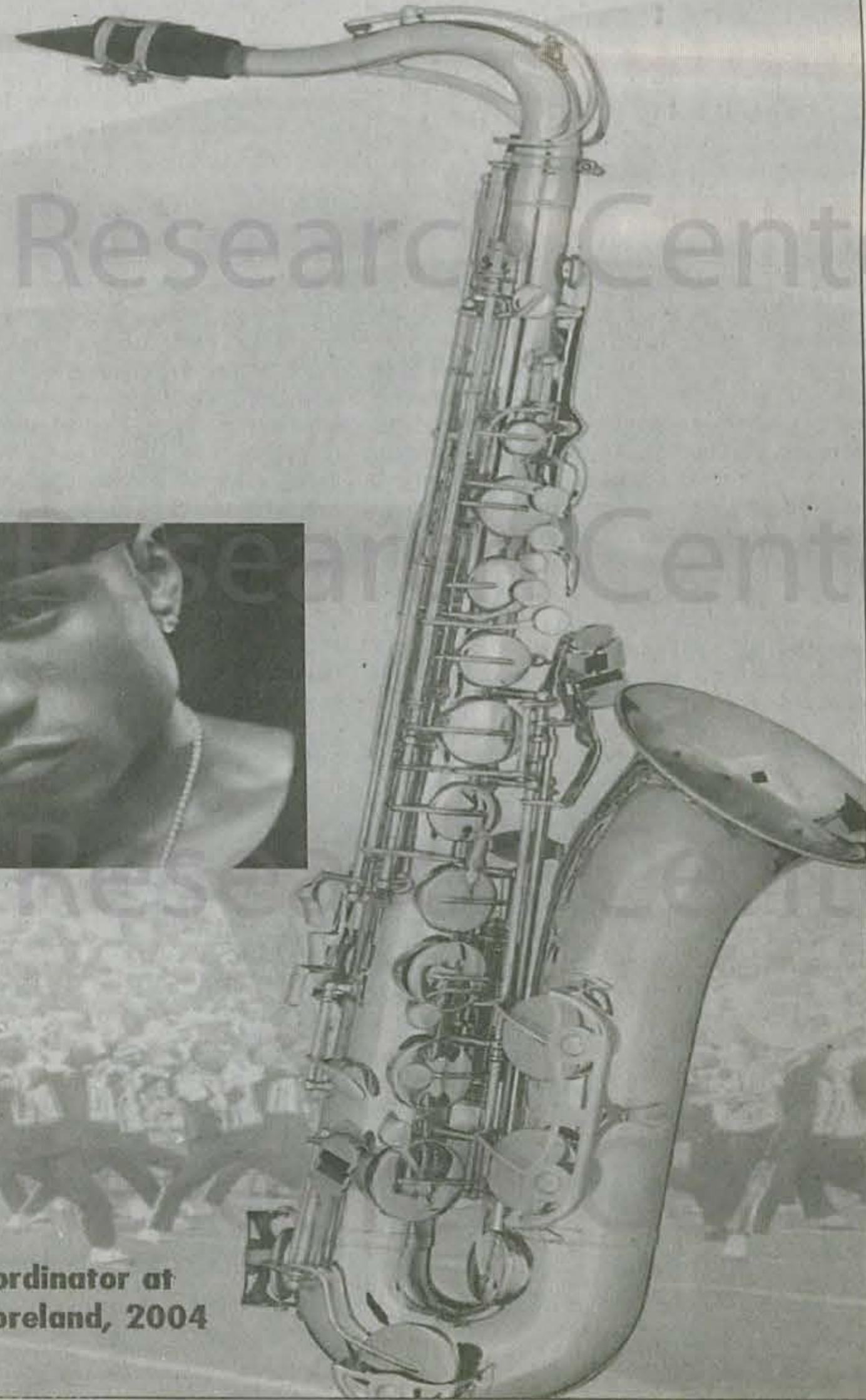
**Come Join This Year's Grand Marshal
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"L.L. COOL J"

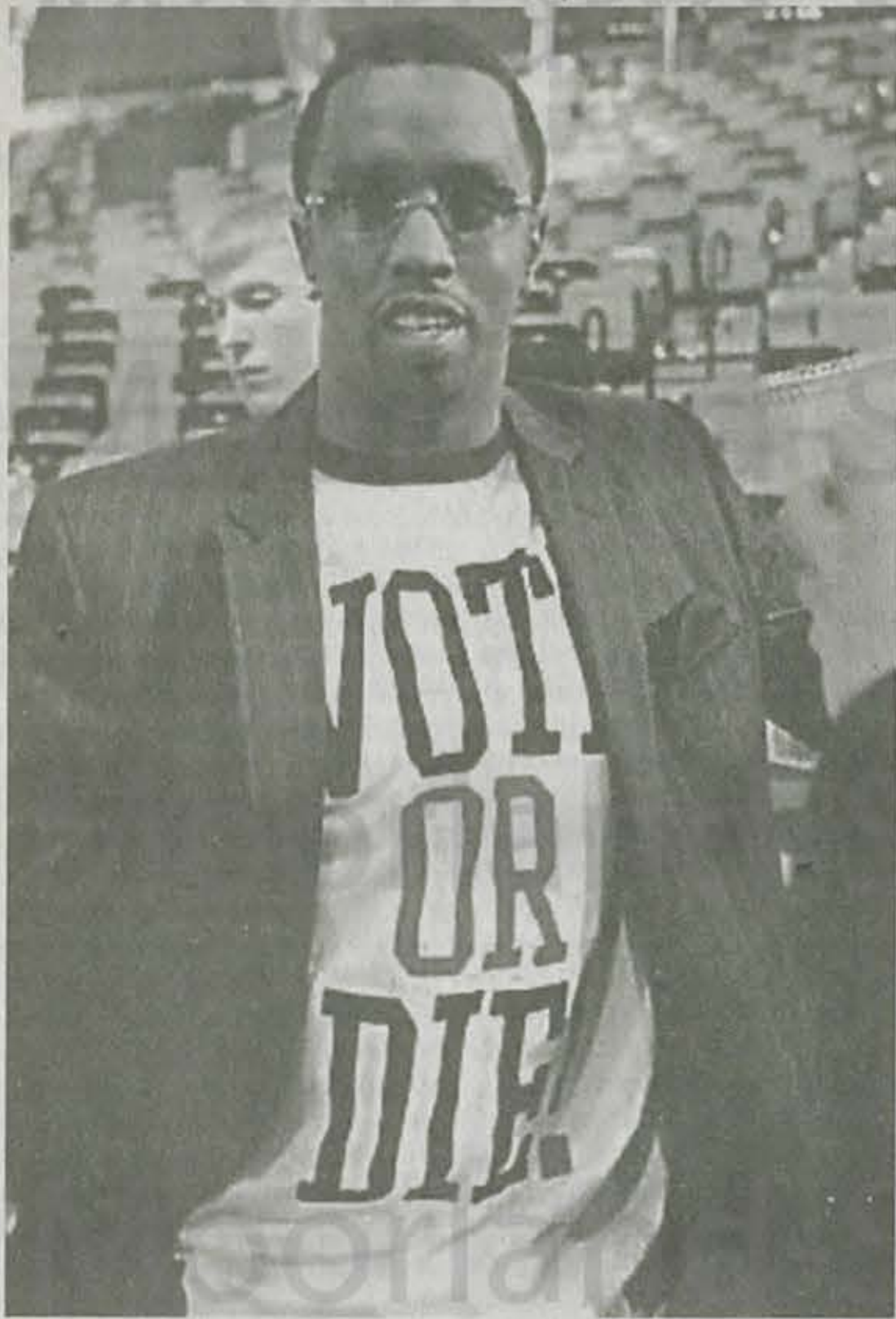
(Internationally acclaimed artist and entertainer will announce the winners of the "Showcase of Bands" and perform the official coin "toss" before the 1:00 p.m. football game kick-off between the Howard Bison and Norfolk State University Spartans)

along with the many Students, Alumni, Faculty, Friends, and Staff as we celebrate

**HOWARD UNIVERSITY'S
2004 HOMECOMING!**



For additional information, please contact Mr. Keith D. Miles, 2004 Parade Coordinator at (202) 806-2650 or via electronic mail at kmiles@howard.edu; or Miss Joy Moreland, 2004 Homecoming Steering Committee, at (202) 806-4510.



Hip-hop mogul P. Diddy adds another credit to his list of accomplishments by becoming the founder of Citizen Change.

VOTE or Die: Is It Fashion Or Politics?

BY TRACEY JORDAN
Contributing Writer

New, hot and sexy are some of the latest descriptions of voting, used to encourage young Americans to vote through Sean "P. Diddy" Comb's new Citizen Change campaign. The campaign's slogan, Vote or Die, has been floating around on college campuses, Black communities and Hollywood to encourage the 42 million young voters ages 18-30 to get out and engage in the political process. Although the trend appraises voting, there are some individuals who walk around in Vote or Die T-shirts and promote Vote or Die parties, without proper knowledge of politics and the importance of voting. Are parties, fashion and celebrities the key to reaching young Black people or is voting beginning to be recognized for its importance instead?

With celebrities like Alicia Keys, Usher, Mary J. Blige, 50 Cent and P. Diddy himself posing on T-shirts and posters wearing Vote or Die apparel, the trend is beginning to pave its way through the youth market place catching the attention of younger audiences. Tommy Hilfiger, Marc Ecko, Sean John and Russell Simmons for Phat Farm, are some of the top designers affiliated with the designing of Vote or Die clothing.

Junior film major Aminah Salaam says that she thinks that the slogan and the campaign are positive because it's helping to get

Black people involved in politics. On the flip side Salaam argues that African-American communities are too celebrity driven. "Why do we need entertainers to get us involved in something that we should have always been a part of," Salaam asked.

Although Salaam's views appear to be a common perspective on the relationship between hip-hop and the Black community, political science professor Michael Frazier said that, as a general rule, young people are unconscious of certain things because of their youth and lack of experience. "Lower and middle class young people don't see voting as the answer to resolving their problems, community problems or societal problems. They see promises after promises but don't see how politics affect their individual lives," Frazier said.

While Vote or Die is P. Diddy's tactic for attracting young Americans, the slogan has proven itself to be true in some societies where individuals are suffering due to lack of community improvements and changes that should be enforced by the government. "Many young people tend to forget that politics control every aspect of our lives," said Maya Russell, a junior broadcast journalism major.

Citizen Change, which is a national, non-partisan and non-profit organization, targets the "forgotten ones" with the Vote or Die slogan by reminding these people of the current and persistent issues of unemploy-

ment, failing education and denial to proper health care. In essence, improvement can be somewhat impossible if the voices of those who are facing such issues are never heard.

With controversy already sparking about the president prior to the Citizen Change campaign, Junior psychology major Andrianna Palmero believes that this election was bound to generate a turning point in the history of Black people and voting on its own. "I do think that entertainers, along with the Vote or Die fashion are contributions to the election, but I think that many Americans were already beginning to realize the importance of their votes through witnessing all that has happened since Bush has been in office."

Chairman of the African-American Studies Department, Russell L. Adams, agrees that this election is important and that P. Diddy, Russell Simmons and other companies are rendering us a much-needed service. "The use of celebrities is one of the necessary means of closing the generation gap, so sadly come in the experience of past elections in terms of black community."

As young Americans represent 25 percent of the voting population, it is apparent that this percentage is significant during elections. Adam Vicks, junior broadcast journalism major said, "Citizen Change may be unconventional, but it has proven to reach a mass audience which cannot be overlooked."

Oops... Oh My: Tweet Gets Up Close and Personal With The Hilltop About Her New Album

BY CANDACE R. JONES
Contributing Writer

"I'm not afraid to say or mention anything about me!" These are the words of Atlantic recording artist, singer and songwriter Tweet. Tweet graced the Howard University family with a performance of her the first hit single of her career "Oops (Oh My)" with the Showtime Marching Band as her background. The songstress is currently on the Seagram's Gin Live Tour and also performed at Washington, D.C.'s Club FUR on Sunday, Oct. 10.

The New Jersey native, who is currently residing in Atlanta, is traveling all across the country to promote her sophomore album, which will be in stores early next year titled "It's Me Again." Her new single "Turn Da Lights Off" is currently in rotation on many urban radio stations. She even included on the CD a track she recorded with her daughter. "I felt that track because my daughter and I were singing, not singing, but singing."

Also on the album is a song called "Could it Be," a duet with newly-famed singer Rell from Roc-A-Fella Records. Tweet also recorded a song with the infamous and legendary Whitney Houston. However, Tweet said that she would save that track for the next album.

Currently, Tweet is listening to the rhythms of Van Hunt, Bilal, and a lot of old school music. She mentioned that her favorite Van Hunt track is called "Dust," which she does not mind playing on repeat.

Tweet said that her greatest inspiration throughout her whole career has been her mother and father. "They are the ones who introduced me to music...I would not have even known music without them!" She also speaks highly of her daughter who has been her saving grace through many of her trials and tribulations.

As many of her fans and critics know already, the songstress has had her share of life's trials. "I'm a real person. I want people to know that I'm not afraid to say anything!" She spoke of one time after a concert two people who once contemplated suicide, as she once did, thanked her for saving



After leaving the R&B scene, Tweet is back with a new single and a new style.

their lives.

With high expectations for the album soon to be released early next year, she said, "People will feel this album because it includes day-to-day life experiences that everyone can relate to!" Tweet also explained her casual way of being a distinguished R&B female today. "My style never changes...I didn't become all hip-hop on this album or anything—I'm just soulful!"

On her first album, *Southern Hummingbird*, Tweet described her mood as somewhat shy and timid, but this time she swore that she was going to "hit 'em something hot!" and reiterated, "I'm a real person and I want my fans to know that!"

"Keep God first and make sure that this is what you want to do with your life 24-7." This was some advice Tweet offers to aspiring artists and musicians. "If it's meant to be, it will happen for you, especially if you love it enough!"

MTV and Akon 'Lock' Sweepstakes Game Down

BY MICHAEL IVEY
Contributing Writer

The song "Locked Up" by Universal recording artist Akon isn't your typical R&B. Most singers in the genre seem more concerned with lamenting or celebrating love and sex, but Akon, who has "a habit of writing about everything I go through," chose to introduce himself to the world with a melodious, yet gritty ode to prison life. Add in a catchy hook that children and adults across the country can be heard mimicking, and vocals from one of hip-hop's most introspective and lyrically violent emcees, Styles P, and you get a genuine radio smash.

MTV, always eager to give exposure to the most popular cutting-edge artists, has done just that for Akon. Besides airing his video consistently, the pervasive pop culture conduit has sponsored a contest which takes Akon's single a step further. "Alcatraz with Akon" is a sweepstakes that can be entered by anyone age 18 to 49, with no purchase necessary, between

Sept. 20 and Oct. 15 by 12 a.m.

The grand-prize winner, who will be chosen randomly, and a guest, will receive a free flight to San Francisco along with paid "first class hotel accommodations" for two nights. MTV will also provide "a deluxe city tour, stopping at all major landmarks and ending with a tour of the infamous prison." At Alcatraz, the winner will get to meet Akon.

Sophomore radio production major Lebrese Black likes the idea. "I see it as more of a positive. I think it would mean a lot to someone who's on the edge and doesn't know what road to choose in life. I'm glad MTV took on a task such as that."

Sophomore physical therapy/pre-med. major Emile Innocent looks at it more practically. "It probably don't really mean nothing. It's more promotion for the song." Innocent also admits being interested in the contest himself. "That's something I would want to do."

Sophomore nutritional sci-

ence/pre-med. major Adrienne Jackson seemed enticed by the idea of meeting Akon, but not in a prison, whether it's shut down or not.

"I think that's weird. Why would I want to meet you at a prison? That just seems very odd. This is where people were incarcerated for life. The vibe is still there."

Not much has been said or written publicly about the correlation between song, sweepstakes and the continued expansion of the industrial prison complex, which Black males are disproportionately a part of. Sophomore fashion merchandise major Connie Bing, however, does see the connection.

"It's crazy. It's like they're promoting being locked up."

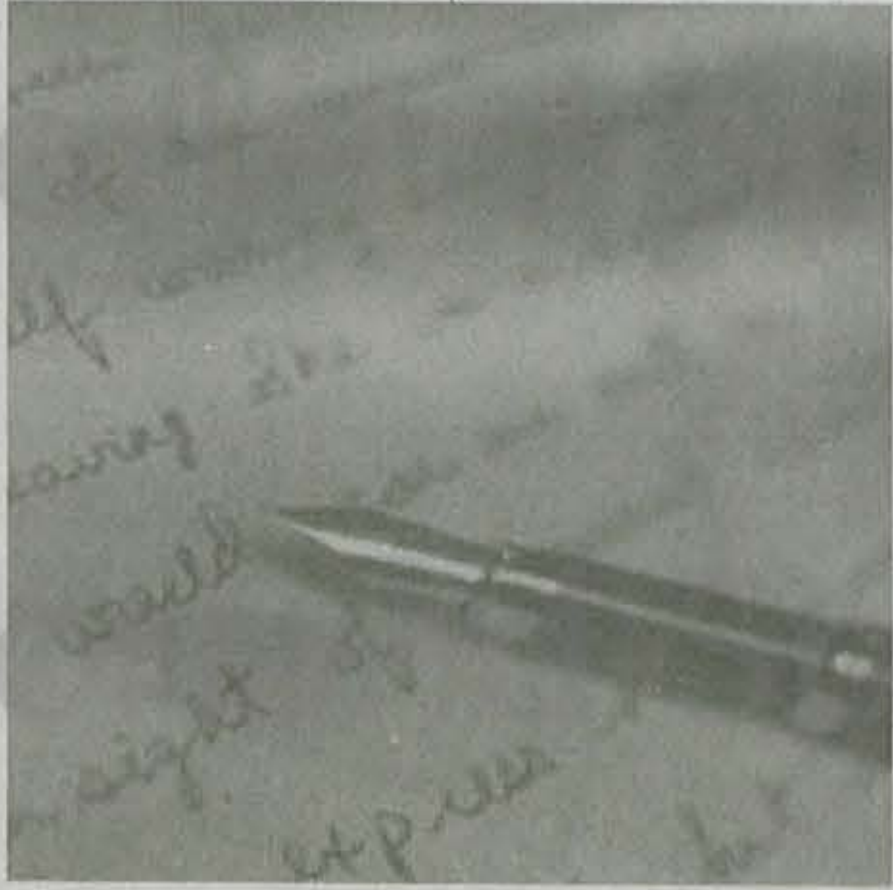
Bing also feels that "Locked Up" is only popular because it had a catchy hook.

"I can't imagine someone that's been locked up singing it."



Hip-Hop singer, Akon along with MTV giveaway sweepstakes are giving away a trip to Alcatraz prison.

WRITTEN WORDS

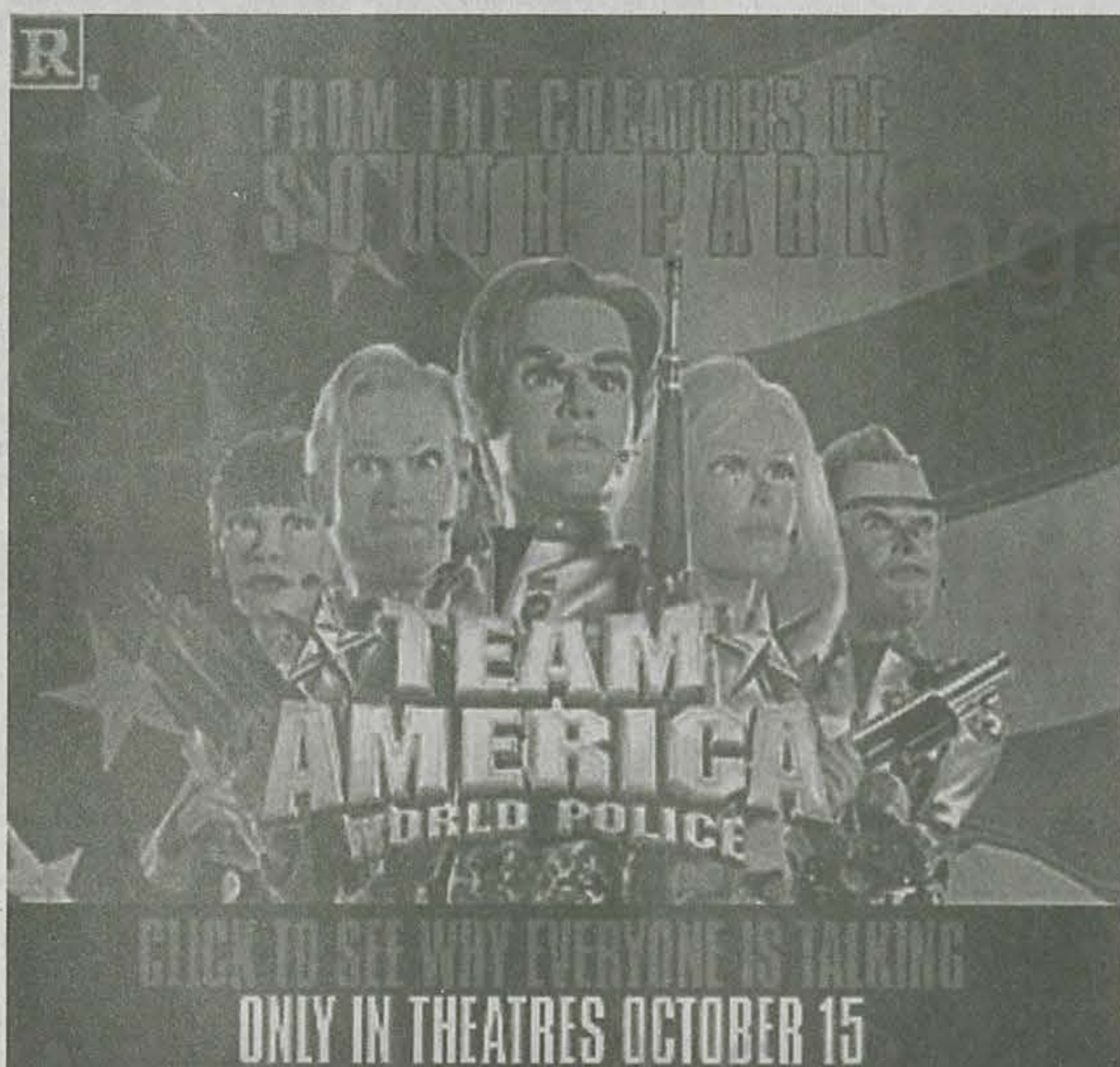


DREAM DEFERRED

What happens to a
dream deferred?
Does it dry up
Like a raisin in the sun?
Or fester like a sore--
And then run?
Does it stink like rotten
meat?

Or crust and sugar over--
like a syrupy sweet?
Maybe it just sags
like a heavy load.
Or does it explode?
-Langston Hughes

Creators Of South Park Stay Consistent with 'TEAM AMERICA'



BY MICHAEL IVEY
Contributing Writer

"We never set out to offend. We just seem to come up with offensive takes on things." These are the words of two of America's most controversial and popular filmmakers, Trey Parker and Matt Stone. Their new film "Team America" is due to open nationwide today and is sure to cause strong reactions.

Directed by Parker and written by Stone, this film is a satire of the current political/military situations in the world. It pits evil Asian terrorists against the powerful, yet overzealous Team America World Police.

The action of the film is centered around a squad of super cops bent on disarming wicked terrorists and getting revenge for their squad leader's murder. Team America's commander and chief, Spottswode, recruits the up and coming Broadway actor Gary Johnston to go undercover in a terrorist cell and find out when the next attack will occur. Spottswode figures that since he's such a great actor, Johnston can eas-

ily fool the idiotic Arabs into believing he's one of them. He does and the squad destroys them, reeking havoc on Cairo, Egypt, as misguided torpedoes and bombs blast through pyramids and topple the head of the Sphinx. Team America then proceeds to shoot and bomb its way through Cairo and the Panama Canal ending up in the palace of the mastermind, North Korean Dictator Kim Jong II.

Few can deny the ability of Parker and Stone. Their show "South Park" was a hit and is currently syndicated on Comedy Central. It took a lot of courage on their part to present that particular brand of humor to the world and deal with the backlash from the media and the public. However, many may feel that their new film crosses the line. It is two hours of vulgar, offensive satire that includes very little that's actually funny.

When we're introduced to our brave, conflicted hero for example, he's in the middle of a song that celebrates the fact that "we all have AIDS." He sings, "Gays, straights, the whites and the spades/we all have AIDS."

Parker and Stone mock both the Korean and Arabic languages as well, reducing the antagonist's words and the protagonist's mimicking to gibberish. The filmmakers also take their trademark sexual humor to another level. To motivate his troops Spottswode uses a parable pertaining to the sexual functions of the penis, vagina and anus. It is used throughout the film and just tends to grate on the ears by the end.

Besides Arabs and Koreans, Parker and Stone target gays and Hollywood activists by using the acronym F.A.G., meaning Film Actors Guild. The protests of people such as Tim Robbins, Alec Baldwin and Michael Moore against American foreign policy and world policing are slammed throughout the film.

Certainly there can be no objection to expressing one's political views through art, but "Team America" does not qualify as such. Parker and Stone use the popularity of their prior works and the uniqueness of marionettes to pass off ignorant, insulting material to the public.

FASHION *idol* OF THE WEEK

Mary J. Blige



www.maryjblige.com

Considered one of the most innovative singers of our decade, the Queen of Hip-Hop Soul, Mary J. Blige is a true diva in her own right. With credibility in entertainment, her sense of style has also received rave reviews from fashion critics.

Still possessing that urban edge, Blige's style is just as straight to the point and edgy as her music. She's graced the covers of hundreds of magazines and is a fashion idol to women of all ages.

COMPILED BY ERICA WILLIAMS
Life & Style Editor



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Rising Levels of Child Obesity Alarm Health Officials

BY RIVÉA RUFF
Contributing Writer

Twenty percent of children in the United States are overweight and the percentage is steadily rising to epidemic levels, said a report published earlier this year by the Department of Nutrition Therapy at The Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland. The issue has become so severe that the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine has called for a nationwide effort of reversion and prevention of obesity in children.

The plan calls for many fundamental changes to the nation's approach in dealing with childhood obesity, including implementing health standards for foods sold in school vending machines and new government guidelines for the manner in which junk foods are advertised and marketed to children.

"We must act now and we

must do this as a nation," said Dr. Jeffrey Koplan, vice president of Academic Health Affairs of Emory University's Woodruff Health Sciences Center and former director of the Center for Disease Control (CDC). "...If we are not willing to make some fundamental shifts in our attitudes and actions, obesity's toll on our nation's health will only worsen," Koplan said.

The plan also stresses more involvement from parents. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) reports that parents often do not recognize obesity in their own children. Nutritionists contend that if parents do not recognize obesity in their children, it may be difficult for them to stress preventative habits. Doctors also warn that a failure by parents to help children keep their obesity in check, will lead to health problems later on in life. Among them, high blood pressure, sleep apnea (ceasing breathing during sleep),

type two diabetes and asthma. Obesity may also lead to some psychological problems in children, such as low self-esteem.

The most common causes of childhood obesity are hereditary traits, inactivity and unhealthy eating habits. Often it is the result of a combination of the three, but many doctors and health journals have said two of the causes, inactivity and unhealthy eating habits, are manageable by parents. They urge parents to encourage more physical activity in their children instead of allowing them to watch television or play video games for hours.

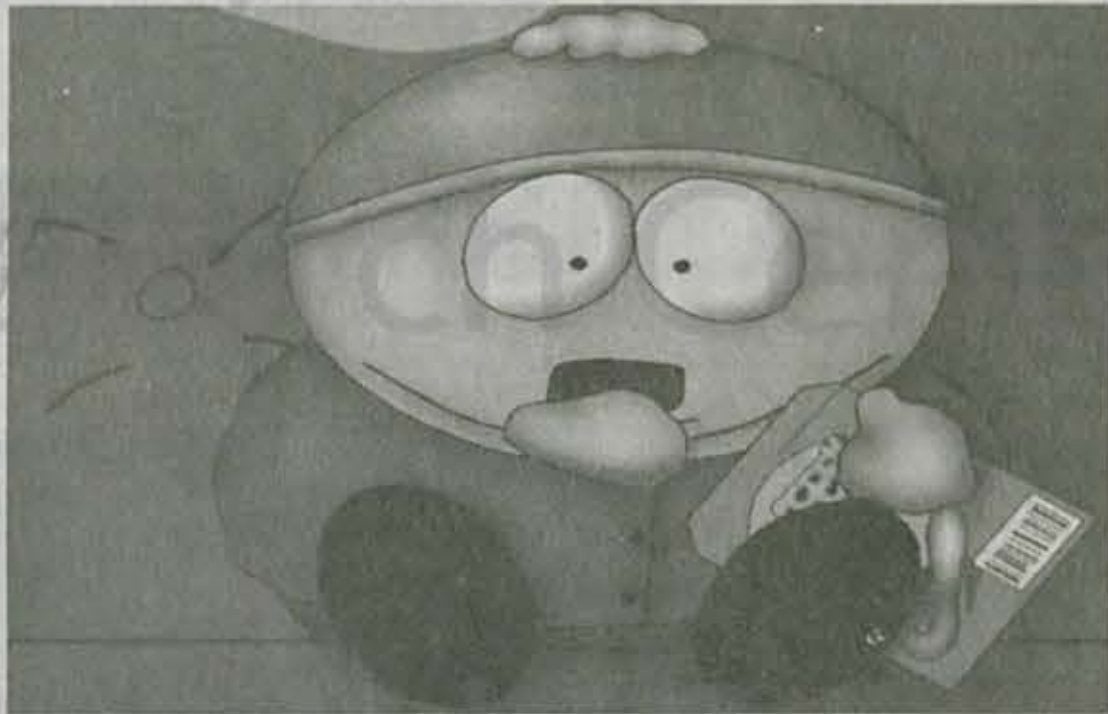
According to WebMD.com, a recent study in *Obesity Research* found that each hour spent watching television or playing video games doubled a child's chance of developing childhood obesity. The AAP says that parents should limit the amount of time kids spend watching television and other

activities that involve minimal movement. Instead, they should encourage free outdoor play and involve children in their own exercise routines.

Natalyn Lovett involves her 9-year old daughter Michaelyn in her own exercise regime. Though her child is not obese, she recognizes the importance of setting up a healthy foundation for her daughter.

"We take turns on the treadmill and exercise bike in our basement," she said. "She enjoys riding her bike alongside me as I walk through the neighborhood too." Lovett added that her daughter is actively involved in her weekly Pilates class as well.

"She brings her own little mat to class so she can participate too," she said. Lovett also tries to make sure that her daughter gets a lot of fruits and vegetables into her diet, limiting fast foods to about twice a week.



(Above) It's funny to see Cartman on South Park stuff his face because it's only a cartoon.
(Left) But when children under the age of 10 are wearing XXL t-shirts, it becomes a serious problem.

Nation & World Briefs

COMPLIED
BY KEVIN HARRIS
Nation & World Editor



Reagan to Appear on Stamp

Former President Ronald Reagan will appear on a commemorative postage stamp set for release early next year, various news outlets report. The stamp will be unveiled on Nov. 9 in a ceremony to be held at Reagan's Presidential Library in Simi Valley, Calif. Prominent Americans usually aren't honored with stamps until at least 10 years after their death, but U.S. presidents are the exception. Presidents are honored with stamps after the first birthday following their death. Reagan passed away this June.

Africa Launches New Initiatives to Fight Polio

Global health officials dispersed teams across 23 countries in sub-Saharan Africa last week to combat the poliovirus that has ravaged the continent, various news outlets report. The teams, consisting of one million health workers and volunteers from around the world, will seek to give the vaccine to 80 million children. They will travel for more than five days to the most remote jungle villages in Africa. Officials say this is the largest public health effort in Africa's history.



Book Says France Wanted to Send Troops to Iraq before the War

Various news outlets report a new book published in France last week says that the French government was willing to provide at least 15,000 troops for an invasion of Iraq. The book, "Chirac Contre Bush: L'Autre Guerre" ("Chirac vs. Bush: The Other War"), says a French general visited the Pentagon three months before the invasion took place to discuss French troops involvement in the war. The negotiations ended when French President Jacques Chirac became frustrated with the Bush administration over weapons inspections taking place in Iraq. The book reports that Chirac thought the Bush administration was going too fast and was undermining the inspections.

Clinton to be probed by Justice Department

The Justice department announced plans to investigate Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's 2000 Senate campaign for possible fundraising violations, various news outlets report. Clinton's campaign is accused of deliberately understating its fundraising costs so that it would have more money to spend on elections. Prosecutors also say that businessman Peter Paul, a three-time convicted

felon, helped to raise money for Clinton's campaign in hopes that her husband, former President Bill Clinton would give him a pardon. Paul did not receive a pardon from President Clinton. Lawyers for Mrs. Clinton say she has done nothing wrong.

Intelligence Bill Passes the Senate

The United States Senate voted 96 to 2 in favor of legislation that will revamp the nation's intelligence community. The legislation calls for the creation of a national intelligence director to oversee the intelligence community as well as the creation of a national counter-terrorism center. The bill would also declassify the amount of money spent by the government for intelligence operations. Before becoming law, the bill must be reconciled with legislation from the House of Representatives and signed by the president.

FBI to Help Stop Possible Terrorist Attacks on Election Day

Attorney General John Ashcroft issued a directive last week authorizing the FBI to use agents from various agencies to investigate potential terrorist attacks for the upcoming presidential election. The directive was the first of its kind since the terrorist attacks of 2001 and gives FBI field supervisors broad authority to recruit agents from other agencies to help in anti-terror activities. U.S. law enforcement officials say they have no specific intelligence about an existing plot to disrupt the election and that the directive is simply a precaution. Ashcroft's directive is to remain in effect for 60 days.

Fight to Legalize Marijuana Taken to A New High

BY CHRISTINA WRIGHT
Hilltop Staff Writer

Advocates for the legalization of marijuana are stepping up their efforts to remove restrictions on using the drug for medical purposes. The group Americans for Safe Access (ASA) has filed a petition with the Department of Health and Human Services. They charge the agency with spreading inaccurate scientific information concerning the use of marijuana for medical purposes. ASA is calling on the government to correct published statements from the federal registrar that they say gives false information about marijuana.

ASA filed the petition under "The Data Quality Act," which allows individuals to challenge scientific information being circulated by federal agencies and requires a response from the agency within two months of the petition's filing. In the complaint, ASA contends that marijuana is currently labeled a "Schedule I" drug, which puts it in the same category as LSD and peyote. These drugs are declared to have no medical use.

ASA believes marijuana can be used for medical purposes and want the Drug Enforcement Administration to declare marijuana a "Schedule II" drug, which would give doctors more leverage to prescribe the drug to ailing patients. It would also make it easier for researchers to obtain marijuana for research. Many high profile celebrities have joined in with ASA and are calling on the federal government to ease the restrictions on using marijuana for medical purposes.

"If we think our doctors are smart enough to prescribe morphine and cocaine...the same doctors are smart enough to say, I think this person can

benefit from this," said talk show host Montel Williams in a broadcast of a recent show about legalizing marijuana.

Williams admits to using marijuana to ease the pains of living with multiple sclerosis. Williams said during the show that he has uncovered an ongoing government program that provides seven people across the nation with marijuana each month to use for medical purposes. The program began as a research program in 1992 with 13 people. Six have died.

"Why can't the federal government expand this program to include the people like myself so that I don't have worries about getting locked up to come in and pay taxes to keep you and people like you employed," said Williams in a challenge to Dr. Andrea Barthwell, former White House Office of National Drug Control Policy Deputy Director For Demand Reduction.

The ASA petition insists that marijuana is more helpful than harmful for the patients who are allowed to use it. A 1999 report issued by the Institute of Medicine said that studies have found marijuana to be helpful "for pain relief, control of nausea, vomiting and appetite stimulation."

"It definitely helps with the side effects of my Hepatitis C, and chemotherapy," said a patient and authorized marijuana user, Monte Levine. "It also helps with the compressed disks in my back." Levine lives in Washington where marijuana is legalized for medical purposes and is an active member of ASA.

The most widely spread connotation about the medical harm of smoking marijuana is that it can cause lung cancer, and therefore should not be legalized. ASA directs attention to the 1988 findings of DEA

administrative Judge Francis L. Young, who concluded that marijuana was safer than aspirin.

"A smoker would have to consume nearly 1,500 pounds of marijuana within about fifteen minutes to induce a lethal response," Judge Young said.

He concluded that marijuana had "accepted medical uses in treatment in the United States." Although he then decided that it be moved to Schedule II, the ruling was later overturned.

To reduce any chances of lung harm, some marijuana users consume the medicine through alternative methods including vaporization and tincture. "Three days a week, I don't smoke it...I eat it," Williams said.

Marijuana can be authorized by a doctor for medical usage in nine states (Alaska, Ariz., Calif., Colo., Hawaii, Maine, Nev., Ore., and Wash.), however authorized patients are still being raided by federal agencies. According to Levine, the federal government of the West district of Washington "strongly encouraged state prosecutors to go after medical marijuana users."

"I've been raided three times," said Levine. "My partner was even tortured in one of the raids. They locked him in a car on the hottest day of the year for an hour and a half."

Users are very adamant about keeping marijuana as their go-to medicine, even if it is made completely illegal.

Williams, who is currently not authorized to use marijuana for medical purposes, defiantly stated that he also would continue to use the drug.

"I'm breaking the law now, and I am going to continue to break the law everyday."

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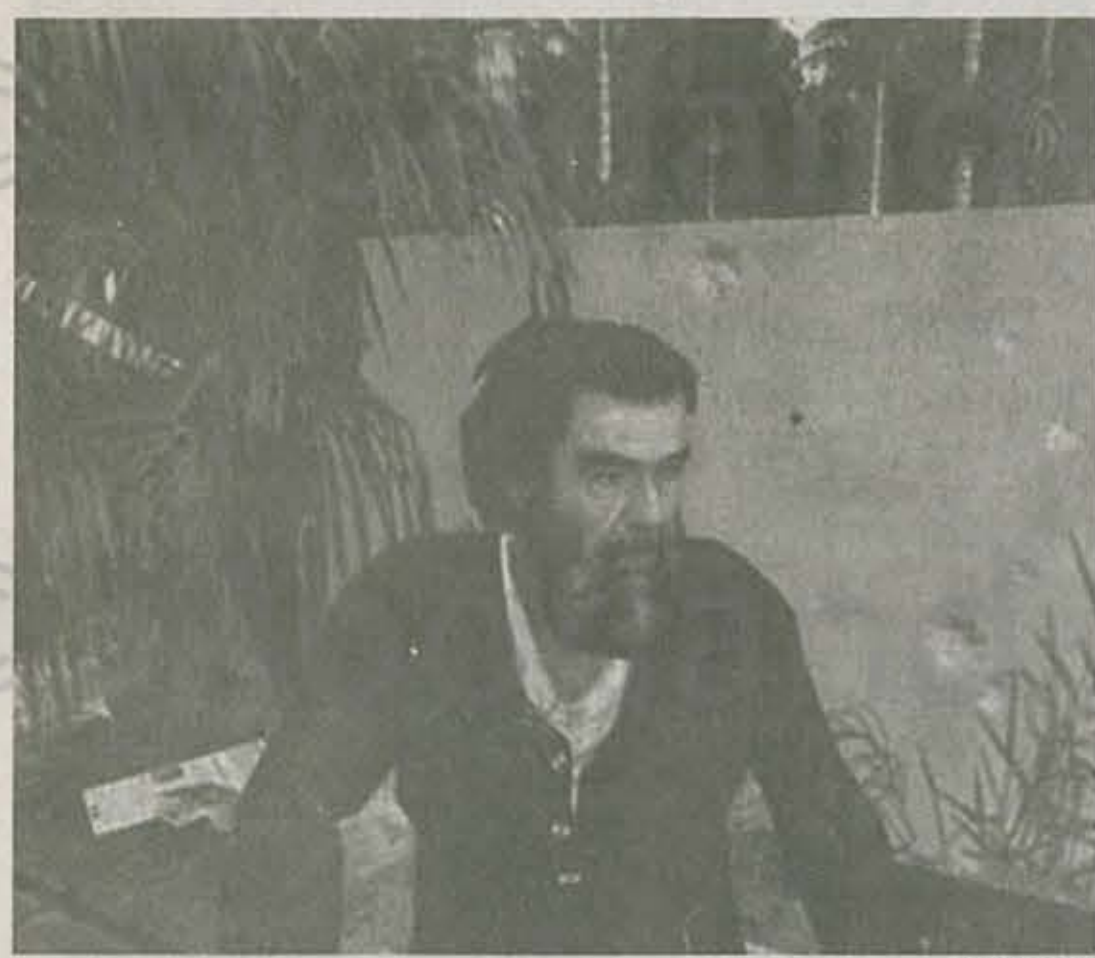
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PRINT DESIGNED BY: J. E. JONES

Two Years, Countless Lives and Money Lost

The War in Iraq is Not a Game; Wait, Yes it is



The U.S. caught Saddam last December. Now, gamers have a chance to catch him for themselves.

BY TEVIE MONK
Contributing Writer

Kuma Reality Games is launching a new computer game that attempts to give anyone with a few dollars the real life experience of soldiers currently fighting in Iraq. The game, entitled "Kuma/War: The War on Terror" recreates actual military events taking place throughout the streets of Fallujah, Sadr City and Mosul.

Priced at \$19.99, the game allows consumers to become soldiers serving in the United States military. They are given up to 21 different missions. Before a mission begins, players are given news briefs by commanders and are provided detailed information on different weapons systems. What makes this game

different from most others is the fact that it re-creates actual events that have taken place or are happening today. One of the missions, Operation Iraqi Freedom, re-creates the March 2003 invasion of Iraq.

Since March of this year, Kuma/War has been available to the public for play online and will be available for purchase at retail stores nationwide this month. Hype surrounding the game has executives at Kuma Reality Games excited about the games' potential now that it is being distributed nationwide.

"The Kuma/War retail product is an awe-inspiring collection of recent battles from the frontlines of the war on terror," said Keith Halper, the CEO of Kuma Reality Games in a press release. "The product chronicles real military events in a way never before seen, and will give the average person a perspective and appreciation for the bravery of our men and women in the Armed Forces, like no other media format has been able to provide."

While war games depicting violent acts are often considered controversial, they usually sell well in comparison to other games on the market with little or no violence.

"[War] games sell a lot," said Richard Smith, a sales associate at Circuit City Express at Pentagon City in Arlington, Virginia. "Probably the only other games that sell more than the war and shooting type games would be sports games."

The controversy over violent games has not slowed down demand for war related games and suggests individuals are fascinated by them.

"I don't think it is in bad taste to have a game like this," said Scott Barnes, a senior majoring in computer science. "There have been games about Desert Storm and other games about fictitious wars...The fact that this is about a real war brings something more to the game."

Some feel it is offensive to re-create the events of a current war for entertainment.

"Exploiting the war in Iraq to make a profit is just immoral considering all of the lives lost," said Halima Sow, a junior political science major. "Any game that simulates a war should be taken off the market. It's inappropriate."

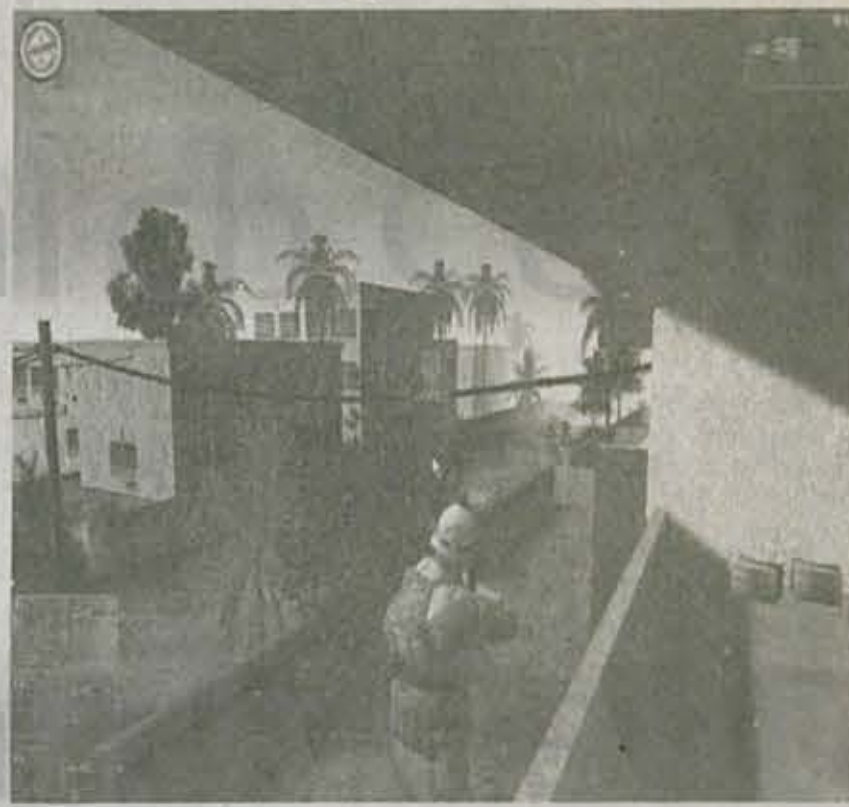
Although some individuals have a positive reaction to war related games, there are others who, like Sow, oppose the idea and would prefer the games to be taken off the market completely.

"I wouldn't want anyone, and I especially wouldn't want kids to play the game," said Aaron Bonner, a junior architecture major. "The game glorifies war and violence, and those ideas

should not be promoted."

Bonner also questioned the purpose for this game and what other games could evolve from Kuma/War.

"I really don't think this is a good idea," Bonner said. "Video games are made for entertainment and made to have fun. This is just one thing you don't do to have fun. It's a real situation, and people are really losing their lives over this War on Terror. This game is making a mockery of the situation. Next they will make a video game about slavery and how blacks overcame that."



www.gameguru.biz.sk

(Above) Protecting the world...
(Below) By killing one terrorist at a time.



www.joegooddatafull.com

Support in Congress Mounting for Allowing Immigrants Chance to Run for President

BY DONALD MCZEAL
Contributing Writer

Legislation that would give foreign-born citizens the chance to run for president is currently under consideration in Congress. Both republicans and democrats appear to be in favor of the legislation and consider current provisions in the constitution that don't allow immigrants the chance to run "outdated."

"This current restriction has become an anachronism that is decidedly un-American," said Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) to reporters after a two-hour hearing discussing the bill earlier this month. Hatch is the bill's sponsor and also serves as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

In order for the Natural Born Citizen Act to become law, the constitution would have to be amended which would require two-third majority vote in both houses of congress as well as approval by three-fourths states. Many Howard students agree with Hatch but admit they would be a little uncomfortable with an immigrant occupying the White House.

"America is a country where every citizen should have the freedom to pursue whatever opportunity or goal that they choose including the desire to become President," said Shenishe Kelly, a senior majoring in English and print journalism. "However, as a natural-born citizen, I would be uncomfortable in having an alien-born citizen as President of the United States." Others oppose the idea entirely.

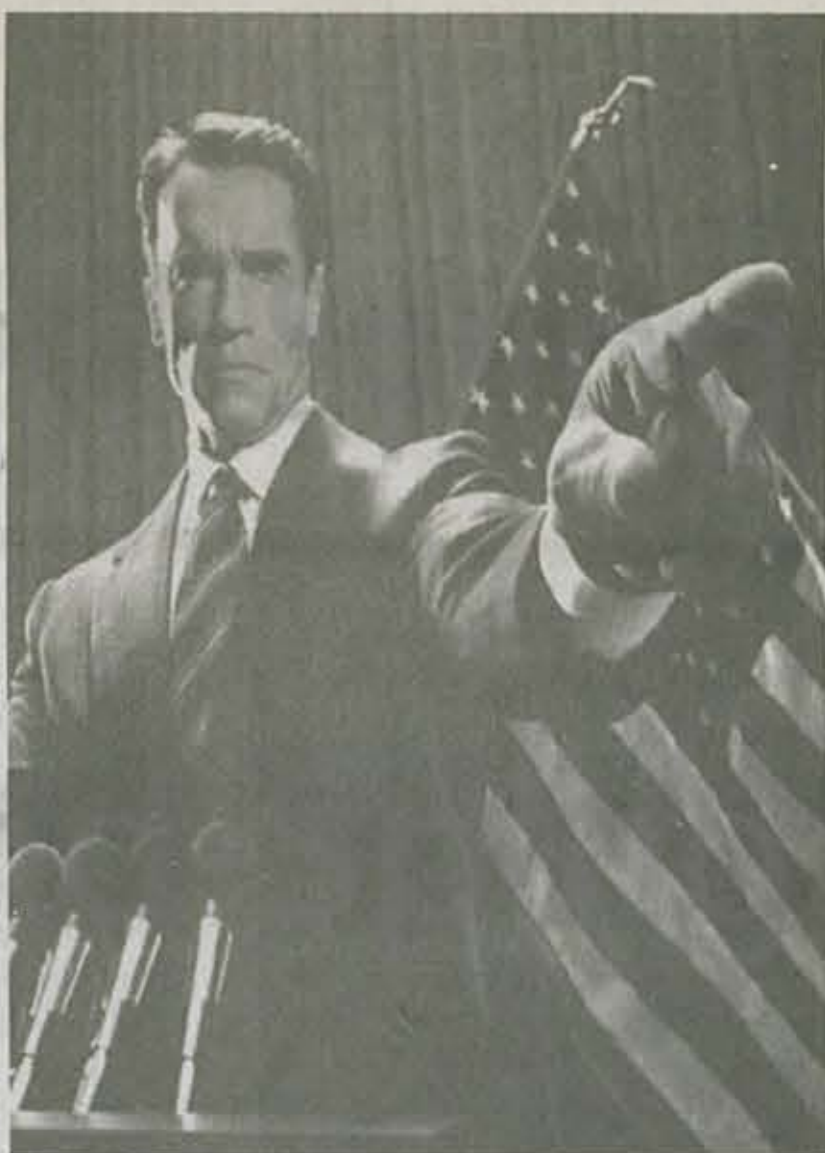
"I don't think they [immigrants] should be able to run for president of the U.S.," said Gary Spaugh, a senior majoring in political science/pre law. "If you are born in Iraq we would not be at war with Iraq because he probably would have had biases."

Howard University political science professor Marilyn Lashley also opposes the idea of immigrants becoming president. "The framers were trying to make certain that whoever held the position of president was a product of the 'American experience,' that they brought to the position values to reflect the true sentiment of American people," she said. Lashley says that if elected president, immigrants, particularly those who immigrate in their adulthood, are much more likely to bring their cultural values and biases with them, which may cause a conflict of interest.

Lashley adds, "If they are coming from a society that is culturally homogenous then they may be less sensitive to America's ethnic diversity."

Other students like Keisha McLean and Julian Webster feel that immigrants should be given a chance to hold the position of president.

Webster, a sophomore majoring in health management, feels that the provision in the constitution against immigrants running for president should be looked at from a historical context to understand its importance to our society.



www.hawaiistories.com

"The framers included that citizens be born in the states as a qualification for becoming president to counter individuals from other countries that would use money to gain political office," Webster said.

McLean believes that the criteria should not be as stringent as it is now. "Proof and length of residency as a citizen should be amended to replace the natural-born citizen criterion," he said. McLean, an immigrant from Trinidad, is a senior majoring in Political Science/Pre-Law.

Since talk of amending the constitution to give immigrants the chance to run for president started, speculation has run rampant whether or not California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger may seek the presidency someday.

In an interview earlier this year with Tim Russert of NBC's Sunday talk show "Meet the Press," Schwarzenegger said he supported changing the constitution so that immigrants could become president. "Times have changed," said Schwarzenegger in the interview. "...There are so many people here in this country now from overseas who are immigrants who are doing a terrific job...Look at the kind of contribution that people like Henry Kissinger and Madeline Albright have made." When asked by Russert if he would consider running for president someday, Schwarzenegger answered, "I have no idea. I haven't thought about that at all. I'm so busy with our state."

Vietnam Draft Dodgers Denied Canadian Memorial

BY CHRISTINA WRIGHT
Hilltop Staff Writer

Outrage from Vietnam Veterans has blocked plans to build a monument in tribute to the thousands of war resisters who fled to Canada rather than fight in the war 30 years ago. The City Council of Nelson, British Columbia in Canada, voted in favor of a resolution to block the building of a bronze monument to honor those who dodged the draft.

The council declared last Wednesday that "widespread community support" is a requirement for any memorial using public funds or being built on public lands. Although the Our Way Home group - the idealists behind the draft-dodger celebrations - could not be contacted, they reportedly are still planning to hold a celebration in July 2006 and will erect the monument in a new location.

"We applaud the decision of the city council and hope the memorial creators decide the dedication should be to peace and no to draft-dodgers," said Joe Davis, director of public affairs at the U.S. Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

The memorial has drawn criticism from the VFW, which is the oldest and largest group of veterans in the United States.

"Everything America holds

dear and every freedom we cherish today came from the blood, sweat and sacrifice of more than 42 million Americans who have answered the call to duty since the Revolutionary War," said John Furgess, the national commander of VFW. "More than one million of them died helping to create our country, to save our Union, and to defend the world from tyranny. To create a memorial to those who chose to flee instead of doing their duty must not be allowed to take place."

Although many contend the building of the monument was a dishonorable and immoral idea, there are equally as many who say the dodgers had reason to evade the draft and that their actions were honorable.

"My wife and I, along with many other vets, feel very strongly that the Vietnam War was like our current war in Iraq, a 'colossal mistake', and that the boys who ran to Canada to avoid the draft were justified," said Charles Hermann, a Tacoma Washington resident who posted comments on the Nelson Community Website.

Although the VFW supports "freedom of expression", Furgess does not agree with Herman's view.

"You can say what you want about the war-we all did and some still do - but do not dishonor the warrior by memorializing cowards," he said. Some

say the resisters should have remained in the U.S. and accepted the consequences of resisting the war rather than moving to Canada.

Some Canadian citizens agree with the VFW and even honor the draftees who accepted the consequences of resisting the war.

"Those Americans who stayed in their beloved country during the Vietnam Era and fought the draft and the policies of their government are among those Americans who made a real difference," said Hal Laffin, an Ontario resident who posted comments on the Nelson Community Website. "Some went to jail for their beliefs. Some served carrying no weapon and some saved the lives of their fellow soldiers as medics. Those Americans aren't resisters," he said. "Those Americans loved their country although they did not agree with their government's policies. Those Americans who stood their ground for their beliefs have something a draft dodger can never have, courage."

Porsha Freeman, a freshman biology major and daughter of a Vietnam veteran, feels the honoring of the draft-dodgers is "completely backwards."

"It's like me and my friends attending classes but the drop-out students receiving the diploma," she said.



www.cub.com

Hilltop This...Hilltop That

We spend hours in The Hilltop office reviewing stories, panicking over deadlines, editing and re-editing, meanwhile neglecting our own homework. Personal lives and personal needs are put on hold as we scramble to get things together. We are students and we are human beings too! Despite the ranking that we proudly and rightfully display on the paper, we make errors too. We aren't bragging to anybody or proclaiming that we are The New York Times; we are simply a humble paper trying to put out our very best twice a week. We are all students and we are still learning. Many of us are honing our writing skills meanwhile trying to provide interesting material for you all to enjoy. Even seasoned professionals misspell photo captions occasionally. Give us a break! We put our best feet forward and head to bed in the wee hours of the morning.

We often hear other students loudly complaining about a misspelled word, an inappro-

priate story, or a random shot aimed at the paper. Some are bold enough to tell us the paper isn't good, period. We get letters and complaints telling us what we need to do and what we are doing wrong. They don't do anything but remind us of things we have already noticed.

Our View:

We enjoy constructive criticism, but be mindful that we are students too.

We critique our papers weekly and we comment on the errors just like you. Once we give each other suggestions, we make an effort to improve. Instead of frowning and telling us what a horrible job we did, how about some constructive criticism? Give us suggestions instead of complaints, we are always listening! We try to give people the freedom to express themselves and provide a variety of reading material for different readers.

We pride ourselves on extending our paper to each and every one of you to allow you to participate. Some papers only let their staff write the stories, but we want to include everyone who is interested. Many of the students who contribute stories to us are still learning too, and we try to work together to produce stories we can be proud of. We urge everyone who disapproves of The Hilltop to come and help out. The staff writers have to run around the campus daily and try to set up interviews to write stories. Editors often get stories late and have to make changes at the last minute. Photographers are also on a constant grind. When a team is working on a tight deadline, mistakes are inevitable. Our doors are open to everyone who is willing to come and make a difference rather than complain.

P.S. Thank you to all of the supportive readers. Your positive feedback is never unnoticed.

D.C. Streets are a Flaming Hot Mess

You finally brought your car to school and you feel unstoppable. Your windows are down and your music is on level 10 as you coast along. Everything is wonderful until you come to Bryant Street, in front of the Annex, and your car Harlem-shakes over the metal boards (that have been there for weeks). The shock is so massive that it causes your favorite song to skip. You frustratedly drive off, cursing the pothole for your immediate whiplash.

We wonder if the horrible D.C. streets, potholes and many ticket opportunities are a part of some conspiracy to profit from our misfortunes. Car dealerships and brake shops must make a killing off of weary Howard students driving their cars up to the garages. What in the world is going on with these mean D.C. streets?

The Hilltop staff can count the amount of brake jobs, wheel re-alignments and oil changes we have needed over a span of a couple of months. We've spent more dollars on car maintenance here than we have anywhere

else. Everyone knows having your car at school is addicting, so we all scrounge up enough money to make it happen. However, we are all struggling with money so the last thing we want to do is cough up money for a random brake job. Georgia Avenue is flooded with service shops simply because this city is full of potholes. Not only are there millions of potholes, but

get the same when we are away! Not only do we have to worry about finding somewhere to put our cars, but making sure they are there once we return. Every carjacker has mastered the Club, and CD players are being eyed. Protecting and maintaining our cars seems impossible.

The transportation budget must be nonexistent because streets all over are full of potholes and other driving dangers. Thankfully this time we cannot pull out the race card, because the disastrous streets are found everywhere. The amount of traffic reflects the massive amount of drivers passing through the city, so why aren't the roads more of a priority? We demand that the streets get fixed in

a timelier manner because they are out of hand. During the winter, the salt on the streets causes many potholes, so we understand that natural damage is unavoidable. However, we want to see the city take a more active role in making the streets decent for our poor little cars.

Our View:

Drivers Beware: D.C. roads will definitely ruin your car.

Colleges and Universities Cutting Back Minority Summer Programs

The climate of the economy is fostering the constant removal of several programs that simply cannot remain in the budget. After school programs, summer programs and professional training summer camps geared towards minorities unfortunately aren't the priority for many universities. As a result, many students may not get the chance to attend such summer programs unless they are African-Americans within a certain income bracket. Many of the programs are also opening up to other eligible non-Black students, and we agree that this is a fair process.

The thought of a minority summer enrichment program such as a science workshop sounds like a real positive situation. The students can be around other students who are striving toward success and possibly coming from a similar background as them. They can identify with their peers, meanwhile learning to develop

their skills and discover their craft. At the same time, the leaders may take an unnecessarily sympathetic attitude toward their unfortunate and underprivileged background, and teach them from a majority to minority outlook. We think that the Black students could really benefit from a diverse summer program with students

from lower socio-economic backgrounds. At The Hilltop, we think summer programs should be colorblind and focus more on need and achievement. Students with financial pressure or extraordinary grades should be rewarded by enriching summer experiences that will prepare them for pursuing a higher education. Besides, living in a comfort zone prohibits growth for students. If students are considering a diverse college, they can get a taste of what they're in for. If the interaction is too overwhelming, students can always opt for an HBCU. The role of college summer programs is to prepare students for the real world, not to prepare them to live in their own worlds for life. Branching out can be good. We're all for giving any student, of any race, the opportunity to pave their ways to college collectively.

Our View:

Let's make the programs need and merit-based rather than race-based.

from all different backgrounds. Learning comes not only from subject matter, but from interaction and culture shock too.

It isn't fair to deny white students the right to attend minority summer programs. To do so would be assuming that there aren't white students

THE HILLTOP

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RHASHEEMA A. SWEETING
Managing Editor

BERNARD "POET" MURRAY
Managing Editor

ARION JAMERSON
Deputy Managing Editor

MAIYA NORTON, Editorials & Perspectives Editor



THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Largest Black Collegiate Newspaper

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Now in its 81st year, The Hilltop is published every Tuesday and Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of more than 10,000, The Hilltop is the largest Black collegiate newspaper in the nation.

The opinions expressed on the Editorial Page are the views of The Hilltop Editorial Board and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Howard University, its administration, individual Board members or the student body.

The opinions expressed on the Perspectives Page are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Hilltop Editorial Board, Howard University, its administration or the student body.

The Hilltop encourages its readers to share their opinions with the newspaper through letters to The Editor or Perspectives. All letters should include a complete address and telephone number and should be sent electronically on our website at www.thehilltoponline.com.

The Hilltop is located at, 2251 Sherman Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001 and can also be reached via email at www.thehilltoponline.com, by phone at (202)806-4724 and by fax at (202)806-4758.

The Hilltop reserves the right to edit letters for space and grammatical errors and any inappropriate, libelous or defamatory content. All letters must be submitted a week prior to publication.

'PIECES OF YOU' Word of the week:

The Darker Brother
Erinna McKissick

Well, Lord
Finally my cup runneth over
With tired bones
That crackle and crumble
When I fold my knees to pray
And today I'm praying harder
than ever
Because everybody tellin' me
how to get a man
And keep a man,
But ain't nobody tellin' me how
to love a man
When his eyes sick
Bones sick.

Heart sick.

When he bleeding from his fin-
gertips and toes.
Ears and thighs.

Blood spewing and spewing
Both nowhere and every-
where.

He is my Jesus.
The white man is his Judas.

And the world say this disease
ain't got no name.

Doctors say, "We don't know
what's wrong with him.
Maybe he's just tired."

And I'm thinking
A black man broken is like
Siberia at midnight
And my man ain't nothin' if he
ain't cold.

This world don broke him bad
But instead of him telling me
it hurt
And lettin' me bleed some for
him,
He just smile and say,
"Ain't nothin' wrong, baby."

All I got is a little White-man-
itis."
He say, "This world don decid-
ed
Who can be the man,
And who can be the man's
driver.

This world don wrote my des-
tiny
And said, 'Negro, don't you
ask no questions.'
And so I don't.

Not anymore,
Because I am the darker
brother
And the darker brother don't
need
No black crows
Or bright lights to tell him he
dying, Ruth---
He can feel it."

And I listen.

Listen to my man
While watching death pool in
his eyes,
Spilling over into pitted
cheeks,
Stinging cracked lips.
Death drips sure and cool
And my man gulps thirstily
Like he been sucking on desert
all his life,
And today I think he has.

Today my throat is bleeding
bile
For all those broken dreams
My man don swallowed in his
sleep.

All those shards all broken
manhood that don
Sliced up his gut
And cut
And cut.

I cry for my man who is so
broke
He can't even love me any-
more.

And all because he is the dark-
er brother
And this world say,
"He ain't good enough to be a
man."

WANT TO SHARE A PIECE OF
YOU WITH THE HILLTOP? E-MAIL
MAIYANORTON@YAHOO.COM WITH
ORIGINAL POEMS.

Defending and Representing 'The Urrrreeea'

RESHENA LANHAM

As a native Washingtonian, I found the article written Aiyi'nah D. Ford to be a total atrocity, or as we say in D.C., some "bama stuff." How could one claim to love their hometown yet slander the city so unjustly and absolutely incorrectly? Ms. Ford speaks of the city being full of ignorant people, but her finger pointing at ignorant Washingtonians leaves four fingers pointing at her. I mean no disrespect, nor am I trying to insult the author's intellect, but that article was wrong! While it is true that people should not boast about their hood when they are in foreign territory, the notion is not one that is specific to D.C. That notion is one that we must all keep in mind regardless of what city we are in.

In terms of D.C. being "a very dangerous, deadly and fast paced city," the same could be said about any city, not just in the United States, but cities throughout the world. As we speak, Fallujah, Iraq is a lot more deadly and a lot more dangerous than D.C. residents there can't go to the market, to a mall or out to eat with friends without the threat of being bombed looming in their minds. And speaking of fast paced, D.C. is quite slow compared to places such as Las Vegas also known as "Sin City" and New York City, "The City That Never Sleeps."

The men of D.C. seem to have a bad rap when they are referred to in The Hilltop. While I understand that there are a number of men that lack proper home training and respect for women, as I've been dealing with them my whole life, this is not an issue that is specific to D.C. Thus, to say that men in D.C. hit women is an unfair generalization. There are some really good, strong and non-violent Black men in D.C., and I speak from my own personal and beautiful experience.

Some men are abusive toward women, but again, D.C. men are not the only perpetrators of such behavior. Domestic violence/male abuse of females happens everywhere that male and female populations cohabitate. Ike was not beating the crap out of Tina in D.C. was he? Men honk, gawk and stare at women everywhere they inhabit, so if you choose to take Ms. Ford's advice while roaming D.C., please be sure to use her advice everywhere else you travel.

In my opinion, the most accurate statement that Ms. Ford made was, "Do not listen to or repeat rumors. Whatever you may have heard about D.C., do not repeat it. Locals love their home and it can evoke a lot of bitter feelings when you slander it." Although Ms. Ford hit the nail on the head with that comment, she also appears very hypocritical in her proclamation. How can one say that and in the same article state and perpetuate the stereotypes, rumors and lies that she asks readers to ignore? That is not a question that I can answer, but it is one that has evoked a lot of bitter feelings in me.

The points that Ms. Ford raised, if they are to be utilized, should be utilized in every city, every ghetto, every slum, every hood and every project that one encounters. None of these points are specific to D.C., and if anyone believes otherwise, they will miss out on all that is good and wonderful about this city, and they will be in for a rude awakening in any other city that they travel to. It's all the same in "Every Ghetto, Every City" as Lauryn Hill properly taught us.

Yes, Reshena Lanham is rude, but she welcomes your responses at rlanham@howard.edu. Please don't let her think you're staring at her when you see her on campus; people from the Urrea really don't like that bama stuff.



Howard Students Need to be V.I.P. During Homecoming!

CANDYCE A. MUNS

For years, Howard students have been fighting the vendors of Wonder Plaza for an extra buck or two off their clothing, beauty supplies and food. However, we don't demand the same courtesy from the clubs who throw special "Howard Homecoming" events, but jack the prices up so high most of us can't afford to get in.

How many times have Howard students seen fliers

for parties that were advertised as the "Official Howard Homecoming After-Party" only to arrive and be asked to spend \$50 or \$60 to get in? If these clubs are going to advertise these parties as Howard Homecoming events, we deserve some sort of kickback, because if it wasn't for us and our University, there would be no Howard Homecoming.

During homecoming weekend, showing a Howard ID at the door should grant us special privileges that won't

be available to the crowds of people making their way from across the country. Such privileges could include allowing us to pay the standard club admission price regardless of what time we arrive. That way students can attend the Step Show and still go to the club without spending \$80 at the door; or have a special Howard University line so that Howard students and alumni can get into these so-called Howard events without having to stand in line for three hours.

Dear
Hilltop.

My name is Tara Pringle and I am a sophomore at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio. I am the editor of our Black student publication, UHUR (the name means "freedom"). I admire the work published in The Hilltop and would like to say that I believe as journalists of color we should stick together.

At UHUR we only have a staff of about 20 people who have to create, design, publish

and distribute the magazine. It is hard to find Black journalists on this campus. Even though Kent State has a population of about 25,000 students, only 1,100 of them are students of African descent and out of those 1000 plus students, approximately 50 of them are journalism majors. Out of those 50, only 10 (maybe) are print journalism majors. So there you have it.

What I am proposing is that we try to form an organization, a coalition of Black student journalists. I know that the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) is one of the organizations that tries to connect us, but I think our connection should

be stronger. You can only imagine the things Black students go through on this campus and it's up to us, the Black student publication, to address those issues. Without the strength of the Black community behind us, we are nothing.

So, I would like to be able to contact the editor so we can further discuss some issues. Again, I chose to write to you first because I know The Hilltop is a prime example of outstanding journalism and I believe we can work together to create something beautiful.

Sincerely,
Tara Pringle

click it to us.

The Hilltop wants to read what
you have to say. Submit a
500 word perspective to
www.thehilltoponline.com.

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Are due, paid in full,
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before
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Announcements by
campus organizations for
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Announcements

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Wednesday,
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2nd Floor Douglass

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future events. For
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10:45 a.m.

Black and Blue
Sunday, October 17, 2004
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Auditorium
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"For it is GOD's will that by doing
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do not use your freedom as a cover-up
for evil; live as servant of GOD."

1 Peter 2:15-16

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and Students!!!**

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Organization of the year?
Or are you wondering
how you can nominate
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Bisonette of the year?**

**For all Bison Ball
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